

LPA NEWSCLIPS/PHOTOS 1967 - 1972

1967 - LOS ANGELES CONVENTION

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FROM LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, Inc.

CONTACT: Anna Dixon (628-3718) after 5:30 PM

For Immediate Release

Little People of America, Inc., a national organization of Midgets and Dwarfs, will invade Hollywood July 24th - 28th 1967; and it wont be for making motion pictures. They will be marking their 9th Annual National Convention at the Hollywood-Knickerbocker Hotel.

Founded by Billy Barty in 1957, The Little People of America, Inc. is also celebrating its 10th Anniversary. At present Billy Barty is the Director of District 12, covering California, Nevada and Hawaii; and the District's established branches are in Los Angeles, San Diego, Bakersfield, Sacramento, Fresno, the San Francisco Bay Area and San Bernardino. Twenty-one people, representing nine states, were involved in the first convention. Now there is a mailing list of over 2,000; and close to 300 are expected to attend the 1967 meeting.

Leading doctors in genetics, endocrinology, radiology, psychology and health and rehabilitation are scheduled on the program. Scientists affirm there is no such thing as a midget; and they tell us there are fifty known species of dwarfism.

Here are some interesting statistics: Only one percent of the membership is in showbusiness. Lee Kitchens, National President, is an electronics engineer with the Texas Instrument Company. Other professions represented in The Little People of America, Inc. include school-teachers, laboratory technicians, nurses, chemists, accountants, secretaries, business executives, insurance underwriters, speech therapists, controller for a market chain, service station owner, market proprietor - to name a few of the diversified categories.

The motto - "Think Big" - is projected by the membership as a whole to help both big and little people expand their education. This will be reflected in the program discussions which will embrace education, employment, scholarship fund, adoptions, and Big Parents of Small People.

Other activities planned for the assembled convention will include swimming, teenage luau, bowling, East-West star baseball game, a Hollywood tour, the Art Linkletter Show, dancing every night, a black-tie formal banquet, and a visit to Dodgers Stadium for the Hollywood Stars baseball game.

Convention Chairman Billy Barty and his staff extend a Hollywood Welcome to all Midgets and Dwarfs! For further information, contact Little People of America, Inc. Convention Headquarters, Anna Dixon, 628-3718, after 5:30 PM. After July 20th, contact the Hollywood-Knickerbocker Hotel.

L. P. A.
National
Convention
Hollywood Calif
July 24-28-1967

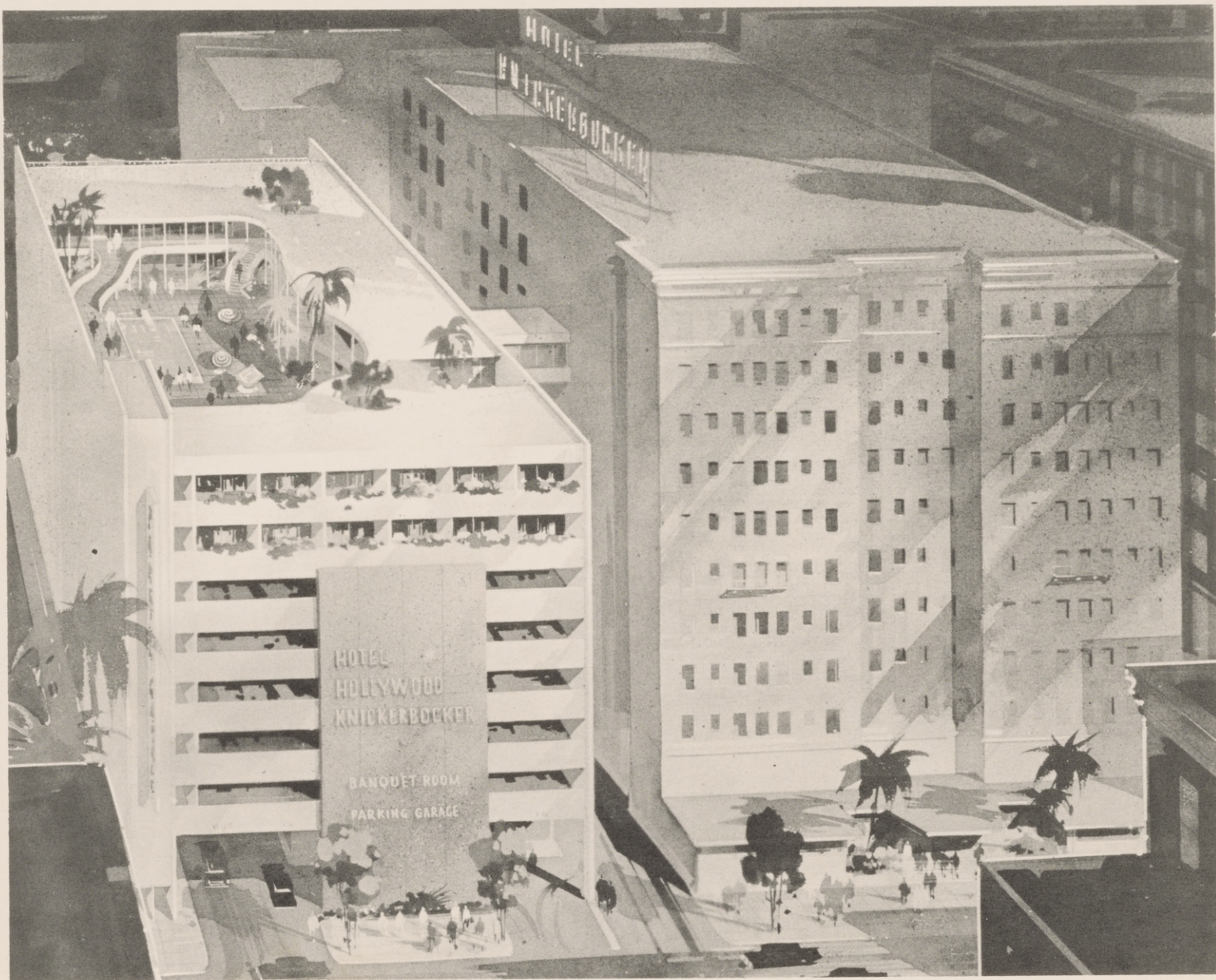


Little People of America National Convention



Board of Directors Hollywood Calif. July 1967

Little People Of America, Inc. 1967 National Convention



HOLLYWOOD KNICKERBOCKER HOTEL
TENTH ANNIVERSARY L.P.A. BROCHURE



GOVERNOR SENDS
LETTER OF WELCOME
TO L.P.A.



RONALD REAGAN
GOVERNOR

State of California
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO 95814

Little People of America Convention:

I am pleased to have this opportunity
to welcome to California the Tenth Anniversary
Convention of Little People of America.

I hope your stay will be a pleasant
one and that you will take time from your
planned activities to enjoy the cultural and
recreational facilities of Los Angeles.

You have my best wishes for a most
successful convention.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN
Governor

Welcome L.P.A. - By Lee Kitchens

Again it is my pleasure to welcome you to a L.P.A. Convention. For many of us it will be like homecoming or a family reunion with many happy greetings and handshakes. And for some of you, that have not had the pleasure of being with us before, it may seem like one great turmoil.

So for those of you who join us today for the first time, let a veteran of seven L.P.A. Conventions offer a few suggestions for maximum enjoyment of this year's convention which Billy Barty and his District 12 hosts have prepared for you:

1. Make a point to meet and shake hands with everyone. Don't worry about forgetting names - we all do - and you will introduce yourself to several people more than once.
2. Join in every activity one way or another. Even if you don't dance, bowl or swim, come anyway and be a spectator, you will find this a good get acquainted time.
3. If you have even a modest talent by all means join us in the talent show.
4. And most certainly each of the ladies should participate in the fashion show. Those that don't join in will be in the minority.
5. Come to meals on time. If you are late you will miss out. You have already paid for them.
6. Even though you are having a ball, get to bed at a reasonable time. Breakfast is early. (If you think this is early pity the Board Members. We have our business meetings at 7 A.M.)
7. Whatever you do, don't miss the general sessions in the mornings. Last year we had to spend much of our time revising the constitution. This year we will be able to have our speakers again and you will find them all most enlightening.
8. And most important, be a part of our last day's general session where all join in our members' forum. Here you will hear ideas, suggestions and remarks from the members themselves. In the past this meeting has proven to be a highlight of the convention.
9. Finally, if you have any problems, questions or suggestions, bring them to the attention of any of the District Directors or the National Officers.

In The Beginning By Billy Barty - Founder

How did the Little People of America become a reality? What year was the organization started? Why was the Little People of America organized? Here are the answers to these questions.

While I was playing with the late Spike Jones at the Riverside Hotel in Reno, Nevada, I had a discussion with the public relations man of the Riverside, Mr. Nick Bourne. Mr. Bourne inquired about Little People and asked if they ever had a national convention. I told him that they have had social meetings and activities but to my knowledge never had a National Convention. Reno was known as the Biggest Little City in the world and he wanted to have a national convention at the Riverside Hotel. I told him I would think it over.

Here was an opportunity to unite the Little People and I wanted to do just that. February 11, 1957, I wrote to Mr. Bourne and accepted his hospitality for a National Convention. Mr. Mort Wertheimer, owner of the Riverside, donated the rooms and gave us half price on the food! Preparations were made, publicity was sent out, and television appearances helped to promote the convention. The organization can thank Mr. Art Linkletter for it was on his show, February 14, 1957, that the convention was first announced.

The first National Convention of the Little People of America was held April 3-4 at the Riverside Hotel in

Reno, Nevada. Twenty one people representing nine states attended.

The first convention was called "Midgets of America." The title was learned to be misleading and during the convention the name "Little People of America" was adopted.

This was the beginning and our future unknown. Elections were held for the first officers. The people elected were: President, Billy Barty, Vice-President, Dan Turner, Secretary, Launa Shelton, Treasurer, Bob Hinkson, and Sgt.-at-Arms, Robert Preston.

This was the beginning, but the beginning did not end in 1957. The next year we were to accumulate our ideas and bring them back to our next National Convention which was to be held at the Riverside Hotel.

We learned that Mr. Wertheimer had passed away and the Riverside Hotel was sold. We were now left without a convention site and it was too late to plan for another one.

In 1958 and 1959 we did not have a National Convention but the organization was not dormant. Launa Shelton and Anna Dixon worked diligently in compiling a mailing list. Every lead thinkable to find little people was put into action. The mailing list started to grow from 21 to 60 and by 1959 we had 200.

(Continued Page 2)

IN THE BEGINNING (Continued)

A convention site had to be found. In 1959 through a friend of mine, Mr. Norman Yeshpa, I contacted the late Mr. Warren Bayley, owner of the Hacienda Hotel in Las Vegas. Through Mr. Bayley's kindness and generosity we planned to have our next national convention.

Robert Hinkson of Washington, D.C., coordinated a regional meeting in Washington D.C. which helped to springboard attendance and give L.P.A. more recognition. The road in the beginning was not an easy one. The old timers will know what I am talking about.

There was much work to be done before the 1960 National Convention. We had our national officers, but what next? I wrote the first constitution by reading the Musicians Union Constitution and adapting it for our needs. The districts were arranged and the Board of Directors were formed from the districts. During the 1960 convention various committees were appointed to go over the plans presented and the Little People of America started to look like a real organization.

Since the beginning, which lasted three years, many changes have been made. In 1961 we were incorporated in the State of Indiana as a non-profit organization. Robert Hinkson, Dan Turner, and our late Vice-President Art Noble were involved. The constitution was adopted in November 1960, incorporated May 1961, and amended July 1966.

Many people have been involved in the Little People of America. Most of these have served or are serving as your National Officers. Since the beginning many changes have taken place, but the hard core workers continue to serve. Among our group are electronic engineers, school teachers, speech-therapist, business men, accountants, machinists, insurance underwriters, lab-technicians, public relations, comptrollers. These people have attained success and are serving L.P.A. There must be a way, for these people have found it and it wasn't easy. We can now answer why the Little People of America was organized. For you — Little People of America helps to educate by living examples.

We hope to erase the day, when these people who are not aware of our being, will no longer say, "Look, there must be a Circus in Town."

Little People Of America, Inc. Founded 1957...Incorporated 1961

The organization of the Little People of America, Inc. is concerned with the need for people of small stature to become useful members of society through education, employment, and social adjustment, and to focus public attention to the fact that the magnitude of any physical limitation is a function of attitude of both the small and average size person. (Continued next column)

The National Officers consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The organization is divided into 12 Districts and the District Directors serve on the Board of Directors which is the governing body. The states have chapters who have officers. The chain of responsibility of officers and members is defined in the National Constitution and By-Laws.

Any citizen of the United States shall be eligible for membership who is of good character and in presenting an application can show satisfactory evidence that he or she is a little person generally not more than 4'10" or is small due to a medical condition commonly referred to as midgetism or dwarfism, and agrees to abide by the constitution and by-laws of L.P.A. All interested parties who wish to become a part of the Little People of America, Inc. should contact a National Officer or District Director in his area.



FOUNDER

Billy Barty
4502 Farmdale Ave.
No. Hollywood, Calif.

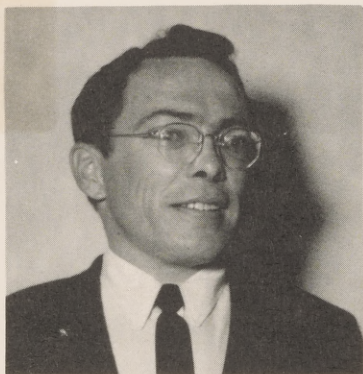
Billy Barty was born in Pennsylvania. When he was 3 years old his family moved to California because of his health. Shortly after becoming a resident he made his first of 120 motion pictures.

He toured throughout the United States and Canada doing personal appearances. The act was billed as Billy Barty and Sisters. The act consisted of singing, dancing, playing the drums and impersonations.

In 1942 the Billy Barty family quit show business so the children could finish their education. Billy graduated from Mar-Ken Professional School and entered Los Angeles City College where he received his B.A. in Journalism. His ambition was to become a sports writer and announcer. He earned a varsity letter in football as a player and while attending Los Angeles State College he made his letter in Basketball.

Billy returned to show business when television became evident it was here to stay. He has traveled in every state, parts of Europe and Canada. He has appeared with many top stars both in TV and motion pictures. His greatest reward is being founder of the Little People of America. Billy is currently District 12 Director serving California, Nevada and Hawaii.

NATIONAL OFFICERS



NATIONAL PRESIDENT

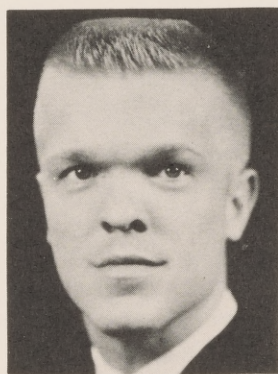
Lee Kitchens
938 Blue Lake Circle
Richardson, Texas

Lee Kitchens joined the Little People of America during the 1960 National Convention. Lee is a native Texan. He is a graduate of Southern Methodist University School of Engineering and is currently manager of an engineering branch at Texas Instruments, Inc.

In 1960 Mr. Kitchens was elected as Director of District 8 and served in this position until 1964. In 1964 he was elected as National President of the Little People and is now serving a second term.

His other activities include work in the Methodist Church, membership in several engineering societies, a conferee on the goals for Dallas program, photography, and with his lovely wife Mary, flying as a private pilot.

His wife Mary is chairman of the Adoption Committee and they have adopted children, Alan 11 and Sandra 7.



NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

Charles Bedow
Box 126
Owatonna, Minnesota

Charles Bedow, National Vice-President of the Little People of America, was born in Tracy, Minnesota. Charles story is one of self determination. His early childhood was one of parental neglect and he never knew a permanent home.

Mr. Bedow entered Mankato Business College in Mankato, Minnesota. Upon his graduation he went to work for the Federated Mutual Insurance Company. Charles has been with the company for over 13 years and is a good example of what self determination can achieve.

He joined L.P.A. in 1960 and has served as District 9 Director, National Treasurer and his ability elected him as National Vice-President.

In 1964 he married the former Sally Wright of Hooks, Texas, and they are now the proud parents of a daughter Jill Renee.



NATIONAL TREASURER

Ronald Shealy
Box 835
Wilson, No. Carolina

Ronald Shealy has been a member of the Little People of America since 1963. In 1966 he was elected as Treasurer. Ronald was born in Lexington, South Carolina and received his public school education in the same town. He attended public schools for eight years and then graduated from high school from Mt. Pisgah Academy, a private school in North Carolina.

The following year he enrolled at Southern Missionary College in Tennessee and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with a major in accounting and a minor in religion. Upon graduating from college he was offered and accepted an accounting position with Murphy Body Works, Inc. where he is presently employed.



NATIONAL SECRETARY

Mrs. Eleanor Jones
6205 Rigebury Blvd.
Mayfield Village, Ohio

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Eleanor had the usual upbringing and schooling, including a B.A. in Sociology. Mrs. Jones first joined L.P.A. in 1962 and attended her first district meeting in Hawthorne, New Jersey. She is proud to state that her first National Convention was Asheville, North Carolina and has attended every National Convention since.

During the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona she met her husband to be, Mr. Paul Jones, and in November 1965, they became Mr. and Mrs.

Paul is serving as District 5 Director and is ably assisted by our National Secretary Eleanor.

Mrs. Jones was selected as Queen during the National Convention held in Gloucester, New Jersey, and L.P.A. is proud of her as Queen and National Secretary.

Parents Auxiliary LPA Discussion Group

A few years ago the Los Angeles chapter had a group discussion for all interested members, whether parents, non-parents, big, little, married or single, for the purpose of exchanging ideas for problems. From these meetings came the Parents Auxiliary and L.P.A. Discussion Group.

They adopted a phrase for each of their discussions: "Little People are just people who look unique. Their problems are the same as others with exceptions." The first meetings were at the home of Mrs. George Rossitto with Dr. Ruth Michelson, Psychologist from U.C.L.A. being called upon to help coordinate the meetings. A program was set and a formula for the discussions was compiled. They discussed social and emotional needs and adjustments and at the conclusion of the meetings there was an evaluation on the particular project.

The discussions proved to be informative and we learned from one another. The main topics were: Physical problems relating to both growth and general health, difference between achondroplastic and pituitary dwarfs, education in regards to: little people in school, public orthopaedically handicapped schools vs. neighborhood schools, and education of general public thru association. Other subjects discussed included clothing hints, dating and marriage, orthodontics, employment and life insurance, reaction of new parents to a dwarfed child and of dwarfed parents to average size children and handy hints for everyday life.

There is much knowledge to be gained from these discussion groups. It is like the Bible says, "In the beginning," and the beginning is with the parents. The beginning can be the end if one does not accept the responsibility to accept the truth. There are many little people who do not associate themselves with the Little People of America. They have convinced themselves they do not need L.P.A. Who is to say they are wrong? Our knowledge is based upon the results. When new big parents do not accept their responsibility they are not hurting anyone but the child. I know of many educated selfish parents, who say they will take care of them. Remember, how long will they be around? What happens when they are no longer available and the child remains a child until he is in his forties. One does not really know life until he is hurt. Life was not meant to be easy, but life is what we ourselves make it.

There is a story that I always think of and it goes like this. I cried because I could not reach the table until I saw a person who had no hands; I cried because I didn't have a pair of shoes until I saw the person who had no feet; I cried because I had short legs until I saw the person who had no legs; I cried because my arms were short

(Continued on Page 8)

Past National Presidents



Mr. Bob Brower
8726 E. Montebello
Scottsdale, Arizona

Mr. Bob Brower was elected as National President of the Little People of America in 1962. He and his wife have attended every National Convention since

1960 and feel their membership is one to be cherished.

For 18 years he has been connected with the supermarket industry in various capacities at the wholesale and retail level. At present he is controller for a chain of stores in Iowa and Arizona.

Mr. Brower has been active in many organizations. He is president of the Retail Controller Assoc., Vice-President and Treasurer of Administrative Management Society; President of Valley Toastmasters, Vice-President of Phoenix L.P.A.; member of Iowa Large Store Group and Arizona Grocers Association; and in 1963-64 he was District 9 and 10 Director.

In 1947 he married Marcella Porter and they have 3 adopted children. Vickie 12, Cathy 8, and Charles 2 who will all be tall. Mr. Brower's hobby is public speaking to benefit L.P.A.



Mr. Dan Turner
P.O. Box 156
Ridgecrest No. Carolina

Dan Turner has the distinction to be a charter member of the Little People of America and to serve as our first vice-president.

In 1960 Mr. Turner was to be the second National President of the L.P.A., which he served until 1962.

Mr. Turner was born in the state of North Carolina and received his education in his home state. He now resides in Ridgecrest, North Carolina where he is active in the Baptist Church, Black Mountain Lions Club and Junior Order of American Mechanics. He has worked for the North Carolina Highway Commission in Asheville for many years and is well respected in his home state as an official representative for the state of North Carolina.

LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA 1967 NATIONAL CONVENTION PROGRAM

SATURDAY JULY 22

Relax - Meet Friends - Registration All Day

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SUNDAY JULY 23

Church of Your Choice - Registration All Day
Food On Your Own

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MONDAY JULY 24

7:00 - Registration
8:30 - Continental Breakfast
9:15 - General Meeting
 Flag Salute, Invocation, Welcome
 Mayor Representative
 Lee Kitchens
 Program Plans - LPA Documentary
 Guest Speaker - Dr. Ruth Michaelson,
 Psychologist
12:00 - Lunch - Guest Speaker, Mr. Frank Bawden,
 Calif. Dept. of Employment, Ventura,
 California
1:30 - Meet in lobby for bowling (Hollywood
 Star Lanes)
2:00 - Bingo in banquet room
6:30 - Dinner - Guest Speaker, Dr. Jean Felton,
 Professor of Occupational Health,
 UCLA Center for Health Sciences
8:00 - Talent Show
8:30 - Dancing

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TUESDAY JULY 25

8:30 - Invocation
 Continental Breakfast - Registration
9:15 - Activities for Little Littles -
 Meet Little Oscar Mayer in Hotel Lobby
10:00 - General Meeting (Dress for Group Picture)
 Guest Speaker - Dr. J. R. Brathoyde -
 Growth Hormones
 Nominations:
 King - Queen
 Teenage King - Queen
 Little Little King - Queen (All Qualify)
11:00 - Group Picture
12:00 - Lunch - Guest Speaker - Mr. Don Blythe,
 State Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation
1:30 - Teenage Swim Party -
 Host - Andre Bourse - Hawaiian Theme
 L. P. A. Discussion Group
3:30 - Business Opportunity
4:30 - Relax
6:00 - Social Hour

TUESDAY (CONTINUED)

6:30 - Dinner - Guest Speaker, Dr. Len Langer,
 Radiologist
9:00 - Talent Show
9:30 - Dancing

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WEDNESDAY JULY 26

8:30 - Invocation - Continental Breakfast
 General Meeting
10:00 - CBS - Art Linkletter Show
12:30 - Lunch on your own
1:45 - Baseball game - East-West
 Swimming, Social Activities
4:30 - Fashion Show Rehearsal
6:30 - Dinner - Guest, Dr. Ramoin
8:00 - Fashion Show - "Flowers of Fashion"
9:00 - Dancing

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THURSDAY JULY 27

8:30 - Invocation - Continental Breakfast
9:15 - Universal City Tour
12:00 - Lunch on your own
4:00 - Relax - Talent Show Rehearsal
7:00 - Social Hour
8:00 - Banquet
 (Black tie optional)
 (Formals for Women)
 Awarding of Trophies
 Coronation Ceremonies
 Talent Show
 Guest Star ?
 Dancing

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FRIDAY JULY 28

8:00 - Invocation - Breakfast
9:00 - General Meeting - President Reports
 L. P. A. Speakers -
 Jackie Robson, School Teacher
 Joe Alexander, Speech Therapist
 Bob Brower, Controller of Market
 Bob East, Helpful Hints
 District Reports
 General Discussion
 Distribution of Photographs
12:00 - Lunch
3:30 - Little People prepare to leave for Dodger
 Stadium to be guest of the Dodger Organ-
 ization to see Hollywood Stars Game.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE L.P.A.

DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR

(Maine, New Hampshire, Ver., Conn., Rh. Is., Mass.)



Linda Pomeroy
176 Howard St.
Keene, New Hampshire

Everyone looks up to Linda despite her height of three feet three inches.

She attended high school and graduated from Business College, and is presently an IBM Operator.

Her interests are many and they include reading, music, politics, people (especially the Little People of America). She has served well in District 1 organizing and building up her membership and their activities. Linda is a good example of individual determination, and the growth of her district is evident.

DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR

(New York, Penn., and New Jersey)



Ann Cleary
Stuyvesant Oval, Apt. 7G
New York, New York

Ann is the energetic Director of District 2. Grammar School, St. Francis de Sales Academy in Belle Harbor, N.Y., and later business college brought her face to face with the business world and her present position as secretary to the President of Cotton Art Mills, Inc., in New York City.

May 1963 she was introduced to the Little People of America, and since through meetings and National Conventions she feels that if something was missing in her life it has since been found. October 1965 she became Director of District 2 and planning meetings and introducing others to L.P.A. has been a most rewarding achievement for her. The understanding of her parents and business associates is the key to her success.

DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR

(Del., Md., Va., No. & So. Carolina, Wash. D.C.)



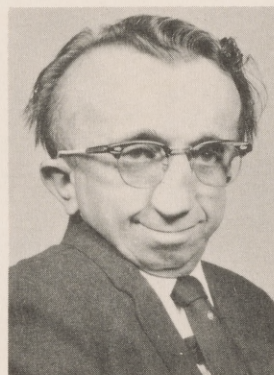
Robert Spector
4308 Miller Rd.
Wilmington, Delaware

Mr. Robert Spector joined the Little People of America in 1960 and in 1966 he was elected as District 3 Director. He attended high school in New York City, majored in music and art and then studied electronics and worked as a technician. In 1955 he attended Juillard School of Music. He holds a B.S. Degree in Chemistry from the City University of New York, and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania. Currently he is a patent chemist with the DuPont Company.

In November 1964 he married the former Mary Taylor, and they now have a daughter Sheryl Lee.

DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR

(Miss., Ala., Geo., and Fla.)



Albert G. Boeckel
2004 Dixie Rd.
Dalton, Georgia

Albert Boeckel was born July 17, 1919 in Golden Valley, North Dakota. He started school when he was 8 years old. Mr. Boeckel is a determined individual and graduated from Hardin High School in 1962.

In his early years he worked in pool halls, was assistant bartender, and hardware clerk. He later moved to Buelah, North Dakota where he worked in a garage.

Al was married in 1953 and they have a daughter 5'2". He and his wife own and operate the "Midget Grocery Store" in Dalton, Georgia.

DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR

(Ind., Mich., Ohio, Ky., Tenn., and W. Vir.)



Paul F. Jones
6205 Ridgebury Blvd.
Mayfield Village, Ohio

Mr. Paul Jones joined the Little People of America in 1964 and proved that he was to be a leader. He is now District 5 Director.

Paul received his 12 years of schooling and upon graduating he entered business college and now holds a B.B.A. degree in Accounting.

In 1964 he met the former Eleanor Ostrow at the Phoenix National Convention and they were married a year and a half later. Paul and Eleanor now live in a suburb of Cleveland where he is presently employed as an Inventory Control Supervisor with a company in the electronic field.

DISTRICT 6 DIRECTOR

(Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri)



James Hagen
2011 N. La Crosse
Chicago, Illinois

James assumed the responsibility as District 6 Director in 1967. This is his first position as a national officer in the L.P.A.

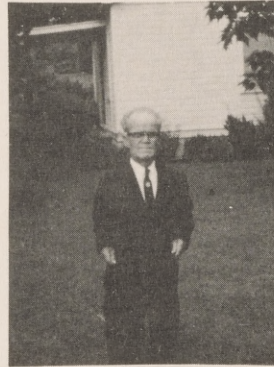
He was born in Chicago, Illinois. He attended the University of Illinois at Chicago for one year and spent a year at Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Ill.

He found L.P.A. shortly after reading an article about our National President. He met the former Eileen Shanahan at his second meeting and a year later they became Mr. and Mrs.

James is presently employed as a mechanics helper for Jewel Cos., Inc.

DISTRICT 8 DIRECTOR

(La., Texas, Okla., and Ark.)



Lee Wright
Box 296
Hooks, Texas

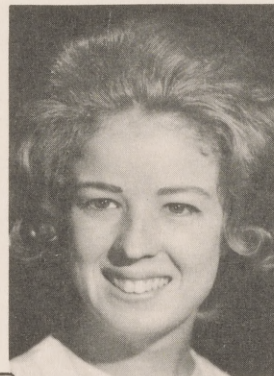
Lee, a native Texan was raised on a ranch in far West Texas but him and his wife have lived in East Texas for the last 19 years.

Most of his life had been spent with normal-sized people until May 1964 when he joined L.P.A., and has since made many new friends from all over the United States. He enjoys working with little people and being with others his size.

He is now retired after operating his own business for many years. He is the proud grandfather of Jill Renee Bedow, daughter of Sally and Charles Bedow of Owatonna, Minnesota.

DISTRICT 9 DIRECTOR

(No. Dakota, So. Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa and Kansas)



Sally Bedow
Box 126
Owatonna, Minnesota

Mrs. Sally Bedow, wife of our National Treasurer Charles Bedow, became District 9 Director in 1967.

Sally was born in Texarkana, Texas and lived in Hooks, Texas until her marriage. In April 1964 she attended her first L.P.A. meeting at the home of Mr. Lee Kitchens, National President, in Richardson, Texas.

In December 1964 she married Charles and they now have a little girl, Jill Renee.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS (Continued)

DISTRICT 10 DIRECTOR
(Utah, Colo., Ariz., and New Mexico)



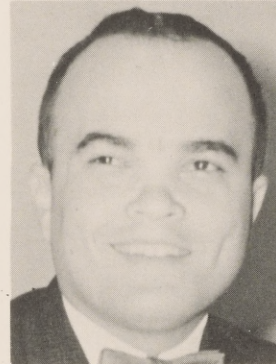
Shannon Carstens
7790 S. Steffensen Dr.
Salt Lake City, Utah

Shannon was born in California. Her parents moved to Idaho Falls, Idaho when she was one year old. She attended school in Idaho Falls where she lived until she met her husband Willi Carstens. They now live in Salt Lake City, Utah and have a daughter, Melanie age 4.

In 1964 Shannon became active with the L.P.A. and helped to organize the Utah Chapter. She served as the first Chapter President of Salt Lake City and the State of Utah. In 1966 she became District 10 Director.

She enjoys being a housewife and mother and also likes sewing and gardening.

DISTRICT 11 DIRECTOR
(Wash., Idaho, Mont., Wyo., Ore. and Alaska)



George "Joe" Alexander
Box 607
Goldendale, Washington

Joe has been active with the L.P.A. since 1961 and in 1966 was elected District 11 Director.

In 1959 he received his B.A. degree from Pacific University and did graduate work at Eastern Washington State College.

Joe currently holds the position as a Public School Speech and Hearing Therapist for Klickitat and Skamania Counties in the State of Washington.

Joe's lovely wife is named Martha and they have two children, Dalla and Dorin. He resides in Goldendale, Washington and is active in the Methodist Church and the Washington State Jaycees.

National Officers Past and Present

1957

President Billy Barty
Vice-President Dan Turner
Secretary Launa Shelton
Treasurer Robert Hinkson
Sgt. -At-Arms Robert Preston

1960

President Dan Turner
Vice-President (Deceased) Art Noble
Secretary Frances Conville Duckworth
Treasurer Robert Hinkson

1962

President Robert Brower
Vice-President Bill Albaugh
Secretary Janet Herrick
Treasurer Jim Liles

1964

President Lee Kitchens
Vice-President Bill Albaugh
Secretary Frances Conville Duckworth
Treasurer Charles Bedow

1966

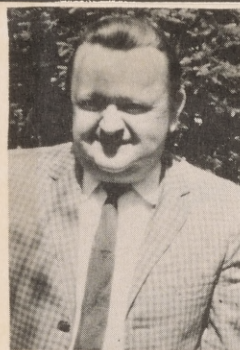
President Lee Kitchens
Vice-President Charles Bedow
Secretary Eleanor Jones
Treasurer Ronald Shealy

PARENTS AUXILIARY (Continued)

until I saw the person who had no arms. Have you really noticed how lucky we are? We have much to develop and the major space barrier to conquer is the space between our ears.

How can you as big parents adjust to the problem if your initial approach is negative. If your mind is closed, so is your child's. We do not all have the answers, but we know most of your problems. Open up your ears and you will open up your mind. Did you know that all the successful little people in our organization had parents. This is the core of the Parents Auxiliary L.P.A. Discussion forum.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIR.



Bill Albaugh
3225 Mt. Ephraim Ave.
Lot B-10
Camden 4, New Jersey

Bill Albaugh was born in a small town in Ohio called Mingo Jct. Upon his graduation from high school he left home to stay with a sister in Niagara Falls, N.Y. He was a bartender for awhile and then traveled with the Buffalo Bills football team as their mascot. It was through this job that he became connected with his present employer, the Squirt Company, who he has been with for 18 years.

Bill has traveled all the time covering the United States, Mexico, Canada and Alaska. It was from these trips that Mr. Albaugh was recognized as the Ambassador of L.P.A. and has helped to promote the organization.

He joined the Little People of America in 1960. Bill served as National Vice-President for two terms before assuming his present position. He has been married for 11 years to his lovely wife Marie.

Leslie Woman Learns to Look Up With Help of "Little People"

Learning to hold his or her head up is one of the most difficult things for a midget to do. Mrs. Lorian Bartig of 867 E. Kinneville road, Leslie, says it is often times easier for the little people to walk with their heads down to avoid the stares of those more fortunate people who are 4 feet 10 inches tall or taller.

Mrs. Bartig, who is 4 feet 4 1/2 inches tall, just returned from the 1967 national convention of the Little People of America. A life-long resident of Leslie, she has not found it an overwhelming handicap to be a midget.

Working in a Jackson factory, she finds that most machines are at eye level with her, but she has managed to be a loyal employee for 20 years. "Little people must work harder than average people to prove they are capable and qualified for employment," she said.

While most women are complaining about the recent mini skirt craze, Mrs. Bartig thinks it is the greatest. She can buy ready-made clothing in a size 3, but usually some alterations have to be made. A size 3 mini skirt dress fits her to a T.

The Leslie woman was an average size baby of 7 pounds --her son was also, but he now measures 6 feet tall. "My boy was taller than I when he

was 6 years old, but this didn't present any problem," Mrs. Bartig said.

How does one become interested in the Little People of America? Mrs. Bartig once saw the organization founder, Billy Barty, on a television show and wrote to him about the organization. She became a member in 1959.

She returned Saturday from an event-filled convention in Hollywood, California. The association of Little People stresses education. "Little People learn so much from each other that soon their handicap doesn't seem so tragic--that is after the small people have learned the chips on their shoulder don't do any good," Mrs. Bartig said.

The week's program included talks by a psychologist, radiologist, professor of occupational health, and speaker from the State Department of vocational rehabilitation.

There were many fun things too: special trips to Disneyland, the Hollywood Wax Museum, Farmers Market, a Dodger baseball game and the Art Linkletter show.

In fact the Little People were filmed for the Linkletter show which will be televised here Thursday at 2:30 p.m.

Working for the betterment of their life, the Little People are constantly thinking up gimmicks which will make them



COMPACT PACKAGE--Mrs. Lorian Bartig of Leslie is 4 foot 4 1/2 inches tall, but has no problem driving or most anything else. With the seat of a compact car blocked up and the added help of 3 pillows, she easily can reach the controls.

more comfortable in a world of "giants."

Mrs. Bartig has her kitchen cupboards and sink at a lower level so she can easily reach things, but emphasizes she really can manage quite nicely with the standard size stove, furniture and even automobile.

A compact car requires only 3 cushions and then Mrs. Bartig can whip through traffic with the best of drivers. A cushion at the back of an easy chair makes even the most over-stuffed living room chair a delight to sit in for Mrs. Bar-

Aug. 2 1967

4 - Monday, August 14, 1967 - GENERAL AVIATION NEWS

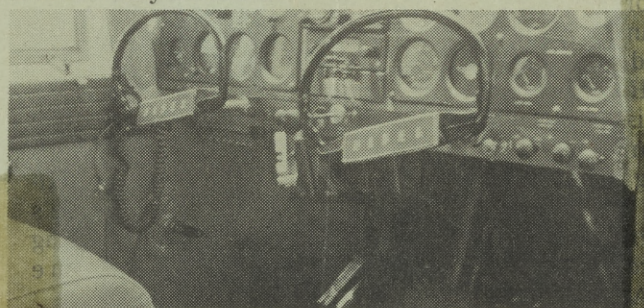
Flying 'Little People' from Texas Operate Modified Piper Tri-Pacer



PACKING UP after Little People's convention are Lee and Mary Kitchens.



HOMEWARD BOUND are Lee and Mary. Note the special cushion used by Mrs. Kitchens on top of the Tri-Pacer's regular seat.



KITCHENS' TRI-PACER panel showing some of the minor modifications.

LOS ANGELES -- Lee Kitchens of Richardson, Texas, visited Los Angeles recently as the president of a national organization. He arrived flying his own Piper Tri-

pacer. These facts would not be at all startling were it not for the fact that Mr. Kitchens is slightly over four feet tall.

So is his wife, Mary, who also is a licensed pilot. Kitchens is the president of Little People of America, a nationwide organization. On a regular basis, Kitchens is an executive with Texas Instruments, Inc. of Dallas.

The Kitchens bought the Tri-Pacer, had it modified, and then learned to fly it. "We bought the plane for two reasons," he told GAN. "First, it has no toe brakes, and, secondly, it was cheaper." At this point, however, he feels that any single engine aircraft could be modified for his use.

In modifying the Tri-Pacer, the only equipment he had to move was the starter. Originally under the seat, he switched it to the panel. Special controls were made which extended the pedals, hand brake, and wheel, closer to the pilot. These were the only modifications,

aside from special cushions which allow Mr. and Mrs. Kitchens to sit higher.

Most of the special equipment can be easily removed allowing the plane to be flown by a conventional sized adult. Occasionally, the Kitchens will take an instructor up in order to stay current.

The Kitchens and their two children do a great deal of local flying around Dallas. Kitchen's father is building a strip on his ranch some 250 miles from Dallas and the family expects to soon increase their flying activity.

"I don't use the Tri-Pacer much for business travel," he told GAN. "Most of my trips are so distant that I use commercial airlines." He carries special equipment in his suitcase for modifying rental automobiles so that he can drive any automatic transmission vehicle.

Little People of America, Inc. currently has nearly nine hundred members. Organized in 1957 by television person-

ality Billy Barty, the group's basic purpose is to provide fellowship, interchange of ideas, solutions to the unique problems of little people,

and moral support.

One of the central goals of the organization is to reach the parents of dwarfed children, Barty told GAN. Often, he said, parents reject their children, and in some cases institutionalize them, even though such youngsters are able to have perfectly normal lives. LPA has set up special programs for children.

General

Aviation

News

Aug 14, 1967

King and Queen Of Little People



Mrs. Frieda Groeneveld, 26, of Tacoma, Wash., and Felix Silla, 20, of North Hollywood, are shown after coronation as queen and king, re-

spectively, of the Little People of America, Inc. The ceremony was held in Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel at group's national convention.

—Herald-Examiner Photo



Pint-Sized Royalty

The newly crowned king and queen of the Little People of America — made up of midgets and dwarfs — meet their court after their coronation at the 1967 convention in Los Angeles. The royal couple each stand less than 4 feet tall. In fact, the queen, 26-year-old Mrs. Frieda Groeneveld, of Tacoma, Wash., is 3 feet 11 inches tall; and the king, Felix Silla, 30, of North Hollywood, Calif., is 3 feet 10 inches tall. Frieda is a kindergarten teacher and doesn't stand much higher than her pupils.

The National Inquirer

Oct 29, 1967

Los Angeles Herald Examiner July 28, 1967

...anyone can ask is that they be allowed to do their best with every millimeter of gut that's in them. . . . I despise people who say once you're up there's no place to go but down. There's always an 'up.' . . . I've asked myself what can I do of value. It's better to be a first-class entertainer than a second-class something else. I know I do it very well. I have a quality of excellence available to me. . . ."

The words pour like bubbly water out of 32-year-old Gary Neil Michael Joseph Alvius A'-Dunn Miller, who, though mighty long of name, weighs a mere 78 pounds and stands no higher than 3 feet, 10 inches. Gary Neil Michael Joseph, etc., better known as Michael Dunn, was born with progressive achondroplasia (a rare form of non-hereditary dwarfism) of normal-sized parents. Thirteen inches taller than Barnum's Tom Thumb, Dunn admittedly casts a short shadow physically. But he's not short on professional and physical accomplishments. There his record—cramped with exceptional courage and a smörgåsbord of skills—is long indeed.

Dunn dazzled Broadway as the spoiled and preening Cousin Lymon in Edward Albee's adaptation of "The Ballad of the Sad Cafe" in 1963. In movies, he was nominated for an Oscar for his portrayal of Karl Glock-

en in "Ship of Fools." On TV he is best known as that maniacal mini-monster, Dr. Loveless, in "Wild Wild West." When Dunn's not acting, he's singing (a deep baritone) in clubs (Mister Kelly's in Chicago and the hungry i in San Francisco) or chasing after such nontheatrical activities as flying and target shooting in addition to sculpting, an art in which he is skilled. In high school he played baseball and football and was a

good swimmer (excelling in water polo). He became a cheerleader in college and mastered judo. (When a masher tried to horn in on his date, Dunn broke the thug's leg with one well-placed kick. "I took my date back to the dorm," he says, "and then called an ambulance.")

Stacked up, that's enough physical strain to tire a titan, let alone Dunn, who, with only defective hip bones to support him, cannot walk a city block without great pain. And professionally, Dunn, whose staunchest supporters thought him dotty to try to crack the theater, has made it big in a business where men his size are generally relegated to clown acts or "small people" side shows. But Dunn has never thought small—physically or mentally. For starters, he has a genius IQ of 178.

"I could have copped out long ago," Dunn says, perched like a carnival

HE CASTS A LONG SHADOW

BY ROBERT HIGGINS

Kewpie doll on the bar of his favorite mid-Manhattan hang-out. Downing the dregs of a Jack Daniel's sour, he goes on: "But I have brains and talent. That's my edge." Yet Dunn, his intelligent, alert eyes peering out of a roughly handsome face, says he had more than that going for him. "My folks were great," he says. "They could have said, 'Let's put this poor little baby in a plastic bubble so nobody'll hurt him.' But they didn't flip out. I was raised to think I wasn't any different. I was so exposed to the

world that my difference didn't hurt." Mrs. Fred Miller, Michael's mother, sums up Dunn's remarkable adjustment this way: "He always had a deep, driving faith in himself. He never doubted his ability and he was born with a will to fight back."

Dunn was born in Shattuck, Okla., but grew up just outside Detroit, where his parents moved to escape the arid Oklahoma Dust Bowl ("The greatest event of the year was a mud storm," Dunn remembers). His parents, he says, were poor. Both worked; his mother was a schoolteacher and his father an engineer. "By the time I was 4," Michael says, "I realized I was a dwarf." Says Michael's father, Fred Miller: "We never thought of Michael as being handicapped. We never used the word. We knew he suffered pain, but we treated him as we would any other child." In football, Dunn says, "if I

got spiked I'd go right back in. Sure I'd cry if I got hurt—but no more than any other kid." In any event, Michael plowed ahead. He almost drowned when, at 10, he dove off a 36-foot-high diving board—before he had learned to swim.

Dunn began reading at the age of 3. Says Mrs. Miller: "He would take a newspaper and pick out words he understood. 'In third grade,' Dunn says, 'the authorities wanted to put me in a 'special' school. My parents refused. They didn't want me to feel

'different' in any way." Dunn remained in regular school. "I was bored to death," he remembers. "I never bought a textbook. I'd borrow one from some kid, read it overnight and never have to look at it again. I have total recall."

During his childhood, Dunn remembers being involved in "the conversation of adults and the games of children." The games were tough at times too. But Dunn's compelling need to make it like everybody else didn't let that stop him. "In baseball," he says, "I wasn't

a very fast runner. I had to depend on sliding." Dunn wasn't much of a slider. "So I saved my ice-cream money," he says, "and went to a baseball clinic in Detroit to learn."

At 15, Dunn enrolled in the University of Michigan. In his sophomore year an accident forced his transfer to a warmer climate and the University of Miami. There Dunn



Michael Dunn, 3-feet-10, performed in an episode of The Wild Wild West with Richard Kiel, 7-feet-2.

T.V. Guide Magazine

July 1967

Little People Get Together

Joe Newhouser of Schererville, and Mr. and Mrs. Nick Michaels and daughter, Donna, and Miss Sue Horkovich, all of Hammond, attended the recent meeting of Districts 5 and 6, Little People of America, Inc. The meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Newhouser and the Scherewood Club, both in Schererville.

Plans were discussed for the national convention July 18-21 in Austin, Tex. Michaels will attend.

Coming events include a

Fourth of July week-end event at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ohlenkamp in Grant Park, Ill.; a picnic Aug. 13 in Hammond, and a barbecue outing Aug. 27 in Lombard, Ill.

Little People of America is an organization for people 4 feet 10 and under.

District 5 includes Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia. Illinois and Wisconsin are in District 6.

LITTLE PEOPLE TO OPEN PARLEY HERE TOMORROW

Nearly 300 dwarfs are expected to invade Hollywood tomorrow as delegates to the five-day annual convention of the Little People of America, Inc., at the Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel.

"Our motto is 'Think Big' so, if you have the usual idea that midgets are good only as circus and sideshow curiosities, then get rid of it," Billy Barty, convention chairman and founder of the Little People in 1957, said here yesterday.

He added that one per cent of his organization's 2000 membership is in show business, and went on to list some of the minipeople's attainments.

"For example, Lee Kitchens, our national president, is a noted electronics engineer," he said. "Other professions represented in our membership include teaching, nursing, chemistry, insurance underwriting, public accountancy, speech therapy, merchandising and financial management."

Leading doctors in genetics, endocrinology, radiology, sociology and health and rehabilitation will address the delegates. Discussion programs scheduled for the five-day meeting include education, employment, adoptions, scholarships and how to treat Big Parents of Small People. The convention will conclude with a black-tie banquet.

The Hamond Ind. Times
June 28 1966

The Los Angeles Herald Exam.
July 23, 1967

Los Angeles Times
July 25, 1967

MIDGETS MEET?

Little People Tell
of Big Nuisances

"We don't have any problems—just nuisances."

Problems, explains 4-foot, 1-inch Lee Kitchens, "mean you are looking for answers. We already know the answers."

Kitchens, a Richardson, Tex., resident who manages an engineering branch for Texas Instruments, Inc., is president of Little People of America, Inc.

More than 200 of the wee folk—all under 4 feet, 10 inches—gathered at the Hollywood Knickerbocker Monday for a week of social events and consideration of some of the "nuisances."

Clothing and finding a job are among the major ones, Kitchens says—particularly jobs.

Too Many Unqualified

"The trouble is too many little people are not qualified for the work they want to do," says the engineer. "This gives them an added handicap on top of their size."

Billy Barty, 3-foot, 9½-inch television and movie personality who founded the group in 1957, adds another area.

"Preconceived notions on the part of big people," he says. "Too many have the wrong idea about the abilities and intelligence of little people."

Both Barty and Kitchens say they don't know what a "normal" person is. They refer to people taller than they as "big people."

Jerry Marens, 4 feet, 3 inches, has another complaint:

"We get paid according to our size," he says.

Barty uses the term "midget" to explain the general lack of knowledge about dwarfism: A midget is a type of dwarf who is perfectly proportioned but "about two-thirds size."

"They have already classified 40 to 50 types of dwarfs," he says, and "we're helping them to find more."

MAJOR MIDGET MATTERS—Times reporter discusses problems of midgets with members of Little People of America, Inc., left to right, Jerry Marens,

Felix Silla, Billy Barty, founder, and Lee Kitchens, president. Barty, a television personality, said too many have wrong idea about ability of little people.

Times photo by Bruce Cox

Photos of Universal City Studio tour →
following pages

"CHEESE!" -- These six smiling beauties are part of the Universal City Studio Tour Guide Corps. The GlamorTram in background is one of many used to transport studio visitors around the 410-acre movie lot.



"SHOT IN THE ACT" -- Movie stuntman, Jim Banner, does a 35 foot high fall from the top of the Stunt Arena at the Studio Center. Shows are scheduled frequently throughout the day.



EAST GOES WEST -- Universal City Studios has recreated this waterfront scene where visitors visit Hong Kong at the Studio Center.



The Universal City Studio Tour's Prop Plaza, a halfway stop on the tour, and the "back lot" are seen in a panoramic view. GlamorTrams await visitors to reboard for the second half of "back lot" tour.



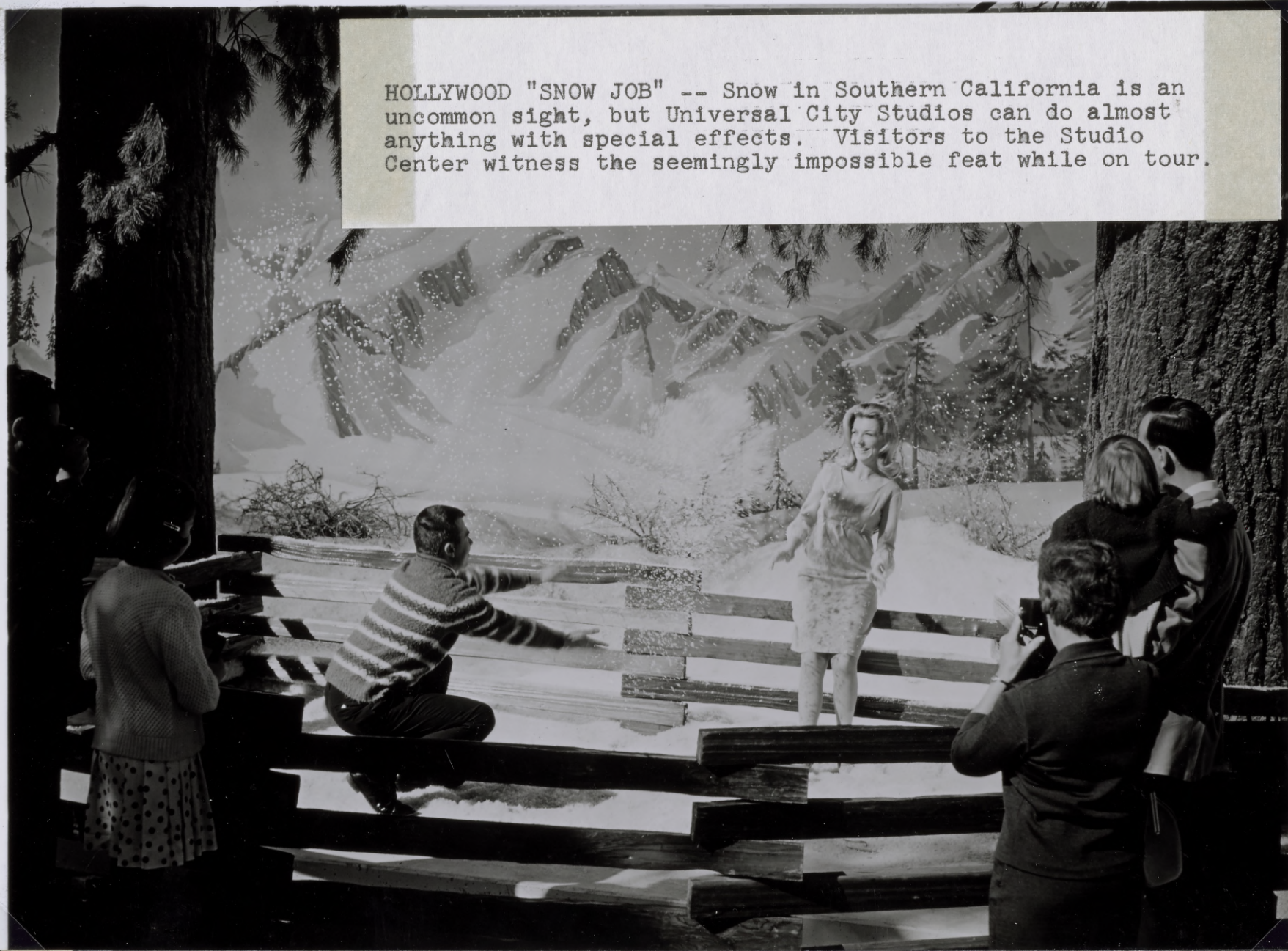


INSTANT EUROPE --- Visitors aboard a Universal City Studio GlamorTram appear to be touring Europe, but are really on Universal's back lot. The whole world is seen on the $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 hour tour which operates daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except Sunday.

"MAKE-UP!" -- Universal City Studio make-up men demonstrate and describe their art to visitors at Universal's Studio Center. Subject is selected from the audience for each show.



HOLLYWOOD "SNOW JOB" -- Snow in Southern California is an uncommon sight, but Universal City Studios can do almost anything with special effects. Visitors to the Studio Center witness the seemingly impossible feat while on tour.



GlamorTram passes by Singapore Lake --- one of the several man-made lakes on Universal's 410-acre lot. In the background looms Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho House.



'MUNSTER' MAGIC -- Visitors at Universal City Studios invade the basement of "The Munsters" and create their own Herman Munster with the flip of a switch during their visit to the new Universal Studio Center, which is now open to the general public taking the GlamorTram tours of the giant motion picture and television studio.



"REEL RAIN STORM" --- Youngsters, touring the Studio Center discover first-hand, the rain is "reel". The Rain Set, one of many self-participation exhibits, is designed to show how rain scenes are created for motion picture and television production.



Hostess to Little People

Miss Janet Clark was hostess to members of the Little People of America, Sunday. Attending the combined social and business meeting were people from Michigan, Indiana, Kansas, and Pennsylvania, as well as the Buckeye members.

Plans were made to attend the national LPA convention in Hollywood, Calif., July 24-28.

LPA is comprised of members who are 4 feet 10 inches tall or less.



BIRTH-DEFECTS CENTER STUDYING "LITTLE PEOPLE"

Is a defect in growth-hormone production responsible for the lack of growth in midgets?

Research aimed at answering this and other growth-related questions is under way at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, where a clinical center for the study of birth defects has been established with

the aid of a March of Dimes grant. Volunteers cooperating in the study include members of a society of midgets (called the Little People of America) and persons born with various skeletal defects, such as achondroplastic dwarfism. Here, volunteers report to Dr. David L. Rimoin, a staff geneticist.



R. N.

Nov. 1967

July 1967

Sandusky O.



Their Organization Is A Big Deal For Little People

THAT'S THE motto of the Little People of America, Inc. (LPA), an association of

dwarfs. All members are four feet ten inches tall or less, who would cope with a world geared to serve those of average height.

LPA member, Miss Janet Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Clark, Patten Tract Rd., celebrated her 16th birthday Saturday. On hand to help with the celebration were Miss Barbara Brenner, Orchard Lake, Mich. and Miss Diane Rimar, Detroit, Mich. All three girls are four feet two inches tall.

MISS BRENNER, a statistical typist, is 28 years old and has been a member of LPA for five months.

Miss Rimar an inscriber for a Detroit bank, is 23 years old and has been a member of LPA for three years. Janet has been a member of the organization for two months.

THE PURPOSE of the club," said Miss Rimar, "is to let little people know that they are not alone. We get together and discuss where to find clothes, shoes, etc.

"We are not handicapped," Diane emphasized. "A handicapped person is a person that makes himself handicapped."

"WE CAN DO anything a person of normal height can do," said Miss Brenner. "I love to water and snow ski, fish, swim, and do most anything that's connected with sports." Barbara is also in the process of writing an autobiography.

"I live in two completely different worlds," said Barbara. They're both fascinat-

ing. All I want to do now is meet many people. I have my own car that is equipped with hand controls and a burglar alarm. "People are always curious as to how I drive, so I find them looking in the window and nosing around the car. I can never tell what might happen so I've installed a burglar alarm that goes off when the door is opened by a stranger."

A DISTRICT meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clark May 21. The district includes the states of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The Clarks said that anyone interested is invited to attend.

Meetings include planned activities such as outings, bowling, and parties, with group discussions about interests and problems. "I have a feeling of belonging," said Barbara of the organization. "I find great emotional problems can develop if you let either world bother you too much. Adults can be cruel. They stare and whisper and point at you in stores and on the streets, wherever we happen to be."

"THE CHILDREN don't think anything of our height," said Diane. "The snide comments never come from them. Adults should be more mature."

Barbara related that two people of normal height have a 50-50 chance of having a dwarf baby. Both Barbara and Diane have brothers six feet tall. All three sets of parents are normal height.

THE THREE girls perform normal activities. Janet, a Perkins High School student, rides horseback, and swims.

Diane also loves and participates in sports.

"A member of LPA once related," said Diane, "That, a

small person can live in two worlds — a small world and a normal world. A person who finds happiness in both worlds

has nothing to lose to society or himself. But a person who hides in one of the two worlds must always live with fear of evasion or contact with the other world. For this person, there is no real truth — not even to himself."



GIRL TALK

Miss Diane Rimar, left, and Miss Barbara Brenner, center, help to celebrate Miss Janet Clark's 16th birthday. All three girls are four feet two inches tall. (Register Photo—Wanda Galloway)

The Sandusky O. Register Feb 28 1967

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NORCROSS COUPLE LIVES HAPPILY IN TWO WORLDS



Pete and Lorene Johnston of Norcross, who are slightly more than four feet tall, are living happily as husband and wife in two worlds—a small one and a normal one.

As members of Little People of America, Inc., they are among more than 2,000 small folks in the nation who meet in groups and share their problems of getting clothes and shoes that really fit and jobs they can do, adjusting to automobiles and obtaining educations. In their organization they form friendships and enjoy life together as small people.

The Johnstons also move readily in the normal world. Pete, who is 4½ feet tall and weighs 130 pounds, is office manager of the Atlanta Service Warehouse in Atlanta. Lorene, who is 4 feet 2 inches, weighs 83 pounds and wears dainty 1½ size high heel shoes she orders from Boston, keeps busy tidying their pretty suburban home on the Norcross-Tucker road, cooking and washing, raising flowers, and serving as secretary of Little People of America, District 4.

In the big world Pete, 34, and Lorene, 35, are sports fans, attend the Atlanta Braves baseball games, and had season tickets to the Falcon football games. At baseball games Pete is sometimes mistaken for Don Davidson, the dwarf-size secretary of the Atlanta Braves.

Pete grew up on a tobacco, peanut and cotton farm near Tifton, Ga., with five large-size brothers and two sisters. At the Tift County High School he got a taste for sports,

playing quarterback on the B football team.

"As quarterback I could hand the ball to someone else and let him run," he said. "I was a pinch hitter on the baseball team."

The Johnston home is normally furnished. Mrs. Johnston steps up on a stool to reach her sink and washing machine. Their clothes racks are lowered.

Pete wears a 16½ inch shirt in the collar with 17 inch sleeves, a number 5 shoe, and usually has regular-size suits or pants altered. Mrs. Johnston has her clothes tailored. Pete has no trouble driving. His Chevrolet has 12-inch extensions on the brake and accelerator.

Mrs. Johnston, who has four brothers and a sister of normal size, grew up in Morristown, Tenn., graduated from high school, served as receptionist for a decorating company seven years.

One day in 1962 she came to Atlanta to attend a Little Peoples convention and got to talking to Pete Johnston at the airport. Romance blossomed and they were married in Morristown in 1963.

Their size doesn't bother the Johnstons. "As far back as we can trace, we are the only small people on both sides of our families," says Mrs. Johnston.

In contrast, Pete has a first cousin, W. H. Morris of Irwinville, Ga., who is seven feet tall. Mr. Morris has four brothers, who are over 6 foot 6.

"The hardest thing for little people," says Pete, "is getting a job, especially for those who have been sheltered. A little person has to have more education and be a little smarter in competing with a larger person for a job."



Mr. Boeckel is a district director of Little People of America, Inc.

Among friends of Pete and Lorene Johnston of Norcross are two well know little people, Albert and Ruby Boeckel of Dalton, Ga. Albert, 46, is 4 feet 5 inches, weighs 95 pounds. Ruby, 38, is 3 feet 5 inches, weighs 65 pounds. They have a normal size daughter, Peggy Ann, 18. The Boeckels operate a grocery on U.S. 41 near Dalton.

Feb. 1968

'Little People' Find That Small Stature Causes Large Problems

By JOY FISHER
SUN Staff Writer

To little children, the world of adults is filled with door knobs that are too high, chairs that are too big and giants with great, thundering voices. For thousands of people in the United States, the world is like that all their lives. These are the "little people," normal in every way, except that, because of a pituitary malfunction, they are rarely over four feet, six inches tall.

To find out what it's like to see the world from a four-foot-plus level, Scene talked to Las Vegas' only family of midgets, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Wayne and Mrs. Wayne's brother, Richard Brasno.

The first difference is one that an "average" sized person might well envy, for most people who look at the world from the four-foot level usually see a great deal of it.

Olive Wayne and Richard Brasno, for instance, traveled all over the world as part of Buster Shaver's vaudeville act, and can even tell of the time they gave a command performance before the King and Queen of England.

"Neither of us ever had singing or dancing lessons," Olive adds. "What we learned, we learned by doing, and by watching others we worked with. We weren't trained for the job when we began, we were simply the right size."

Gus, too, saw much of the world because of his diminutive size. For seven years, he was the "Johnny" who called for Philip Morris loud and clear.

Many midgets, at one time or another, find work as "living trademarks." Richard was, for a time, "Mr. Zero" for Hollywood Candy. Jerry Maren, who visited the Waynes while in town on a holiday recently, lays claim to two "living trademarks." "Little Oscar" of the Oscar Mayer Meat Company, and "Buster Brown," who with his dog, "Tige," dictated the latest taste in shoe styles to the juvenile set.

Many "little people" find employment in show business not as stars but as stand-ins and stuntmen for children. In the United States, child actors can work only four hours a day, and most of that time is spent in front of the camera. Patient hours of standing for lighting and fast-moving falls and collisions are accomplished by midgets.

Richard commented that such dangerous work gives the lie to the widespread belief that midgets are "fragile." An excellent golfer and all-round athlete,

(Continued on Page 20)



Jerry Maren dons costumes as a "living trademark" for both Oscar Mayer Meats and Buster Brown Shoes. Maren is second vice-president of the Southern California branch, Little People of America; now works as a stuntman and children's double in Hollywood.



Billy Barty, right, and Dan Turner, seek relief after one day of the National Association of Little People of America held here in 1960 in the world's largest aspirin bottle, which was seven feet tall. Turner was then the incoming president of the organization, Barty was its founder and first president.



"The smaller the person, the bigger the car," is sometimes true among midgets, and with special pedal extensions shown here by Olive Wayne, any size car can be made comfortable for driving. Gus Wayne, at left, peeks through the car window at his wife.



Olive Wayne at work as a keno runner at the Hacienda. "You should see the looks on some of the customers' faces when I ask them if they'd like to play keno."

No Hidden Life

By JOYCE DeSOTO
Staff Writer

The "little person" of today doesn't need to be hidden in a back room or displayed for entertainment.

They want to rid themselves of the P. T. Barnum concept, said Bill Alexander, one of the little people who met in Lynnwood Saturday at the Barb Restaurant.

"There's never anything easy about being a minority—especially one with a visible difference. Scientific genius, too, is a minority but doesn't show in the same way we do," he said.

The "little person" is learning his own worth. So is the world.

Little people teach school. They work in aircraft plants, become lawyers and enter any profession they choose. They drive cars and rear families, most often of normal-sized people.

And they have founded an organization just as any other group of persons with a common interest.

Saturday night was the organization's district meeting—District 11 of the Little People of America, Inc.

They dine. They danced. They entertained and were entertained.

A Western Sun photographer and reporter joined them for what they called "the time of our lives. They may be little when you stand next to them but that's all."

The "little people" realize they live in a big world and it's not going to change. But it doesn't stop them from thinking big. In fact, "Think Big" is the organization's national motto.

As Alexander, district director of the Little People and a speech therapist in Everett schools until he moved to Goldendale, said: "We want to make little people more independent."

He asked the 14 members who were present with their families—normal sized persons—for ideas about making life easier.

He explained that he drives a regular-sized car—with brake and gas pedals elevated—and has a mobile home with an eight-inch false floor so he and his wife can reach things.

Most little people are about three feet tall although the smallest national member is only 24 inches tall. Medically, most little people are classified as dwarfs—not midgets. A dwarf's legs and arms have not grown to match their bodies. Clothes are a problem. Sleeves, hemlines and trouser legs need altering. Biggest frustrations, however, come when a "little person" needs to call from a telephone pay booth and can't reach the coinbox—or wants to climb a bus step.

Until formation of the Little People of America with its 12 districts and a membership of near 6,000, parents of little people often did much unconscious harm. They didn't allow their children to attend school in order to protect them from the world.

However, a Darrington little person, Freida Groeneveld, not only was graduated from Seattle Pacific College, but now teaches school.

At Saturday night's party, she and two others sang "It Is No Secret What God Can Do" in such harmony that there wasn't a dry eye in the audience.

Another little person, 12-year-old Jo Lynn Vermillion of Seattle, pert with a white bow on her hair, played "No Man Is An Island" on the flute.

A good deal of the little people's thoughts are filled with helping others like themselves. Many had never seen another little person until the organization of LPA in 1953.

As one member wrote for their brochure, "A small person can live in two worlds—a small world and a normal world. A person who finds happiness in both worlds has nothing to lose to society or himself. But a person who hides in one of the two worlds must always live with the fear of evasion or contact with the other world. For this person, there is no real truth—not even to himself."



Measure Up To Grownup World

Little People's Life Just As Big And Don't Believe Small Talk

By EARL KOHNFELDER

Marty Mazik is afraid many of the "little people" of the Pittsburgh district may be in hiding.

As co-ordinator of the local chapter of Little People of America Inc., he'd like to do something about it.

Members of the Little People are 59 inches tall or under.

Marty feels the main point he has to put across — to normal grownups and his kind alike — is that little people are no different than big people, except they're little.

Explaining himself further, Marty, who towers over many of his counterparts at four-foot-eleven, said:

"A lot of grownups think we want to cut the world down to our own size, have scaled-down kitchens, cars and all that.

"That's not true. We're grown up, too, and can do anything big people can do. We're perfectly normal, except for our height.

"A number of grownups think we're carnival people and won't give us a job. One

thing our chapter can do is direct little people to employers who will hire them."

He said too often little people become adjusted to a small world, in many cases being shielded from the normal world by overly protective mothers.

The longer this happens, the more difficult it becomes to adjust to the normal world, he contends.

"A lot of little people are afraid to join our organization because they think they will be exploited.

"That's wrong, too. We just try to talk over common problems, help each other out, and have a good, social time of it.

"Perhaps the main thing we accomplish is to give moral support to the shy ones and build their confidence."

To be sure, little people have their problems.

No one is more aware of them than Kitty Gordon, who uses a foot-high stool to boost her 42 inches to the kitchen stove, sink and table in her home in New Kensington.

"I'm a regular little climber, said Kitty, interrupting her work in the Easter

Seals clipping service Downtown.

Clothes are one of my tougher problems. I get my dresses in the 'chubby' department of little girls' apparel.

"And I don't have to wear baby shoes any more since they've started making high heels in sizes one to four."

Marty and Kitty like to tell of the progress their little people friends are making in the working world.

They talk about four-foot-nine Geraldine Chaney of McKees Rocks, an X-ray technician at Ohio Valley Hospital.

Or Ed Emigh, four-foot-four father of four normal-sized children, who operates a specially-equipped cement truck in New Alexandria.

Or George Dold, four-foot-five electronics worker for RCA in Washington, Pa.

Beginning next Sunday, the chapter will meet at Easter Seal headquarters at 10 Wood St. Little people from throughout the Tri-State area, regardless of age, are invited to attend the 2 p. m. meeting.



KITTY GORDON

MARTY MAZIK

Kitchen 'climber' takes a coffee break.



MR. AND MRS. STEIN

FATHER BRAUN

All smiles after a big small wedding in North Hills

Just Cottage Small For Tiny Newlyweds

'Good Skate' Chuckie Stein, 4 Feet, 11 Met 4 Feet, 2 Bride at Rink

By JOHN PLACE

It's just a small white cottage.

But it is home — and plenty big enough — for little Chuckie Stein and his bride, the former Donna Jeffers.

Donna stands all of four feet, two inches.

And Chuckie, who marched down the aisle yesterday, is 4'11."

The couple exchanged wedding vows at St. Sebastian's Church, Siebert Road, in the North Hills.

Following a reception at the Beverly Hills Hotel the newlyweds left for a week's honeymoon.

Then they will take up housekeeping at the cottage in Westfield Avenue, West View.

The wedding climaxed a two-year courtship that began on the skating rink at North Park.

Chuckie, some years back, took the part of "Dopey" in the Ice Capades number,

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

After leaving show business, Chuckie held a variety of jobs, the most recent with the County, and is now "as we say, between jobs."

It was while teaching others how to skate at North Park that he met his bride-to-be.

Donna, who lived at 101 Harbeth Dr., McKnight Village, has a brother, Bill, also a little fellow at 4'4".

"I knew, Bill long before Donna," he said. "But, after meeting her at the rink, well, I've been going in circles ever since."

They do cut quite a figure, at that.

Bill was one of the ushers at the wedding.

And the ceremony was performed by a former show business friend of Chuckie's, Father Warren Braun of Youngstown.

Father Braun was a dancer when Chuckie knew him.

They played together in shows during World War II. After the war, Father Braun entered the priesthood.

"We're really happy he finally decided to get married," said a sister of Chuckie, who lived at 22 Doulton Rd., Ross Twp.

Chuckie goes along with that.

Little People To Meet Here Friday

The Little People of America, Inc. will hold a regional meeting Friday through Sunday in the Roosevelt Hotel.

The group's Pittsburgh chapter will be host to 50 Little People from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Ohio, as well as visitors from Georgia and North Carolina.

Membership in Little People is limited to "grown-ups" who haven't grown beyond 59 inches.

The organization's national convention scheduled for July 19-23 in Gloucester, N. J., will be a leading topic at a business meeting Saturday morning.

A tour of the City and annual banquet will round out the day's activities for the Little People. Marty Mazik, Pittsburgh district co-ordinator for the Little People, has invited all Tri-State area members to attend.



Registering for convention are, from left, Mrs. Emma Lentini of Auburn, George Baehm of Long Island, Miss Ronny Starr of New York City, Mrs. Lentini's husband, Frank, and the Lentinis' daughter, Shirley Marie, 13.

Healthy adjustment

'Little People' meet

By ROBERT NEEKER

"This might make a good LITTLE Sunday story."

Those were the editor's words in assigning a reporter to cover the Little People of America, who are holding their district convention at the Holiday Inn at Carrier Circle this weekend.

But the story of the little people (whose average height is four feet, four inches) is really a pretty BIG one, as told by George Baehm III, director of the district, which embraces New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Because it's a story of healthy adjustment.

"A small person can live in two worlds — a small world and a normal world. A person who finds happiness in both worlds has nothing to lose to society or himself," says George.

"But a person who hides in one of the two worlds must always live with the fear of evasion or contact with the other world. For this person, there is no real truth — not even to himself," he explains.

He points out that his group, which is a national organization with some 800 members (by George's guess there are some 10,000 little people in the U.S. "and that's a conservative figure," he adds) enables undersized persons to meet. Quite often the meetings lead to marriage.

"The organization provides

the best opportunity for a little person to meet another little person and make a happy marriage. I met my wife at one of our national conventions," he said.

Members of the organization are accountants, bookkeepers, artists, clerks, lawyers, watchmakers, barbers, bank-

ers, schoolteachers, chemists "almost any legitimate occupation you can think of" says George.

For little people, variety in job opportunities is a comparatively recent development.

"There was a problem prior to the war. Then, many em-

(Concluded on Page 26, Col. 4)

—From Metro Page—

ployes wouldn't hire the handicapped and many little people didn't bother learning a trade, say studying to become a typist, because he or she figured 'Why bother — who would employ me?'

Most little people at that time entered the world of show business. Today only one per cent of the members of George's group are in show business.

But when handicapped veterans began returning after the war, many employees began taking a different view towards hiring the handicapped, realizing "you wouldn't be applying for a job if you didn't think you were able to do it," he explained.

One of the major problems posed by being a little person, George points out, is transportation. Special extension devices for the feet must be built into cars used by the undersized.

George said that a Californian, Robert East, is a member of the organization and builds many car extensions and is also the inventor of a telescope-type pencil which can be used for dialing phones, or as a blackboard pointer for teachers and proves itself valuable in many other ways for those with short reaches.

The device, a long pencil capped by an item appropriate for its particular use, such as a hook, can be folded like a telescope and carried in the breast pocket of your jacket. (The device used for dialing also is capped with a slot which holds a dime. When pressure is applied to the center of the "pencil" the dime can be dropped in the telephone coin-box.)

Of his organization, George says:

"It is often difficult for some of us to meet other little people for the first time. We are used to living in the 'big world' and often do not wish to admit to ourselves that we are different from other people in some way.

Little People's Director, Wife Visiting Here

1968

Mr. and Mrs. George Baehm III, of Great Neck, Long Island, N. Y., are visiting here with Mrs. Baehm's father, George F. Anderson, 223 Third Street South, and with other relatives in Cook and Duluth.

Mr. Baehm is district director for Little People of America, Inc., in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Before coming to Virginia he and Mrs. Baehm visited in Owatonna with the national Little People's president, Charles Bedow.

The 1969 national convention of the group will be held next July in Minneapolis at Holiday Inn Central. About 260 attended the Little People's convention last month in Baltimore, Md.

The group is open to all persons four feet, ten inches and under. More information may be obtained from Mr. Bedow at Box 126, Owatonna, Minn. 55060.



—Evening News Photo

THINK BIG—Signing in at the Nationwide Inn for the meeting of Little People of America, Inc., are George Baehm III, right, of Great Neck, N. Y., and Brian Morris, of Lancaster. With them is Miss Janice Spink, room clerk. The meeting extends through tomorrow. The group's motto is "Think Big."

General Tom Thumb and Other Midgets

He was a midget of a type that has not been known to lack pituitary hormone. Now it is clear that such midgets have a deficiency of the pituitary's growth hormone, which indicates that they can be treated

by Victor A. McKusick and David L. Rimoin

On February 10, 1863, in New York's Grace Episcopal Church, Charles F. Stratton was married to Lavinia Bump. The wedding was an unusual one in that the groom, better known as General Tom Thumb, was three feet two inches tall and the bride only two feet eight inches. The maid of honor and the best man (the bride's sister and her fiancé) were also midgets. All four were protégés of Phineas T. Barnum, who one assumes was not unaware of the opportunity the wedding afforded to bring them to public attention.

Physicians refer to any very short person as a dwarf, but in common usage a distinction is drawn between midgets and dwarfs. A midget is a short person whose proportions are normal or nearly so and a dwarf is someone whose proportions are abnormal: his torso and head are large with respect to his legs. Dwarfs with abnormal proportions usually suffer from one or another of the chondrodystrophies, genetic disorders in which faulty metabolism of the cartilage at the end of the long bones inhibits their growth. In the past decade progress has been made in distinguishing these disorders, and at least some of them have been traced to a defect in the production of the substances called mucopolysaccharides. Here, however, we shall be concerned not with dwarfs but with normally proportioned midgets.

What was responsible for the diminutive stature of the four principals in the wedding party of 1863? Stratton's parents were both of normal size. His puritanical father (his great-grandmother was a relative of the theologian Jonathan Edwards) is said to have considered his son "the living evidence of God's wrath against the Strattons." Recent discoveries made in connection with cases

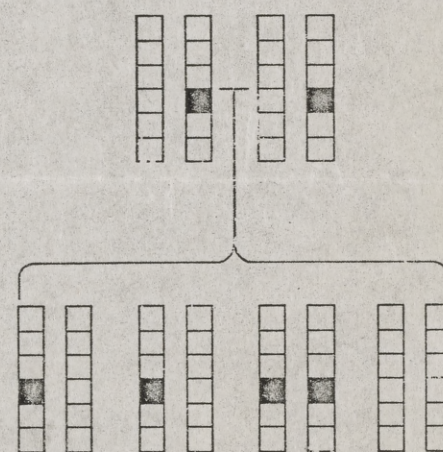
that are similar to General Tom Thumb's suggest a more satisfactory explanation. We now know that a lack of the kind of growth hormone usually manufactured by the pituitary gland is responsible for the failure of such people to grow normally. The production of the hormone is undoubtedly controlled by the genes, and it is likely that both Tom Thumb's father and his mother carried a recessive gene that was defective in this respect. Thus he could inherit two defective genes and lack the normal genetic apparatus for the production of growth hormone. Significantly his parents were first cousins; therefore if a mutation in one of their common ancestors had given rise to the defective gene, the probability of their both carrying it would have been considerable.

It is almost certain that the same genetic disorder was responsible for the stature of Lavinia Bump. (Barnum exhibited her as Lavinia Warren, Warren being her mother's maiden name.) Her parents too were of normal size, and they were third cousins. Moreover, two of their nine children were midgets (Lavinia and her maid of honor Minnie).

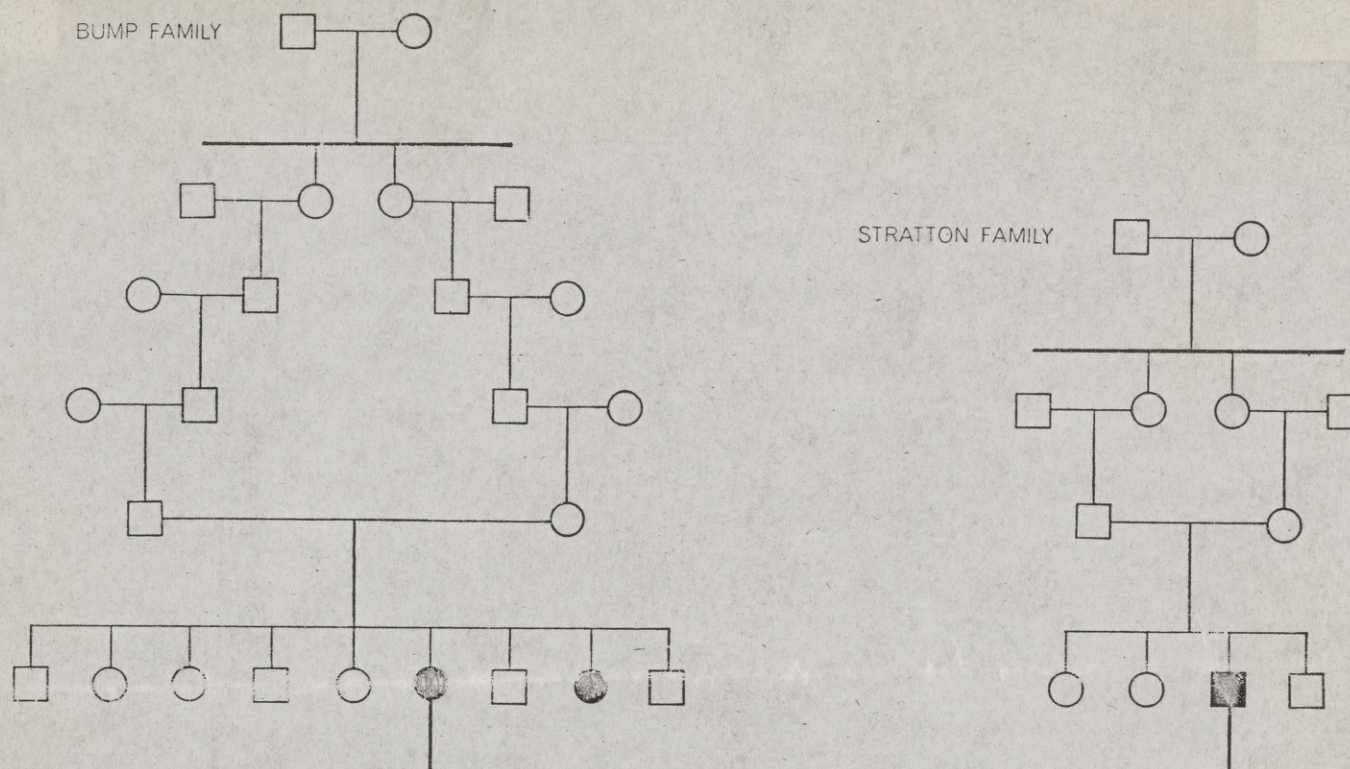
Except for their size, Tom Thumb, his bride and their attendants were apparently normal and healthy. Their weight and length at birth fell within the normal range; the retardation of their growth was not recognized until late in their first year. There was no indication of any chondrodystrophy: their bodies were all normally proportioned. Nor was there a sign of any intellectual deficiency. Lavinia taught school at the age of 13 before going into the circus. (She stood on a desk so that her pupils could see her.) Tom Thumb is said to have delighted Queen Victoria and other European rulers with his easy manner and witty remarks. Presumably their sexual develop-

ment was normal also. A photograph of Tom Thumb shows him with a beard (after the style of Napoleon III), and he displayed a strong interest in the opposite sex. According to some reports Lavinia gave birth, on December 5, 1863, to a daughter weighing three pounds. It must be said, however, that on other occasions Barnum hired babies from their parents to pose as the offspring of his midgets. In Lavinia's autobiography no child is mentioned. On the other hand, her midget sister Minnie is known to have died in childbirth.

At the turn of the century an English physician, Hastings Gilford, coined the word "ateliosis" to distinguish normally proportioned dwarfs from others. (The term is derived from the Greek meaning "not arriving at perfection.") He recog-



RECESSIVE GENE probably caused the small stature of Tom Thumb and his bride. These schematic chromosomes show how a recessive gene (black) in the paired chromosomes of both parents (top) could be combined in different ways in the paired chromosomes of their offspring (bottom). A combination of two recessive genes (third from left) would give rise to the recessive trait.



BUMP AND STRATTON PEDIGREES show the marriage of Lavinia Bump (black circle) to Charles Stratton (Tom Thumb) (black square). The blood relationship between Lavinia's parents

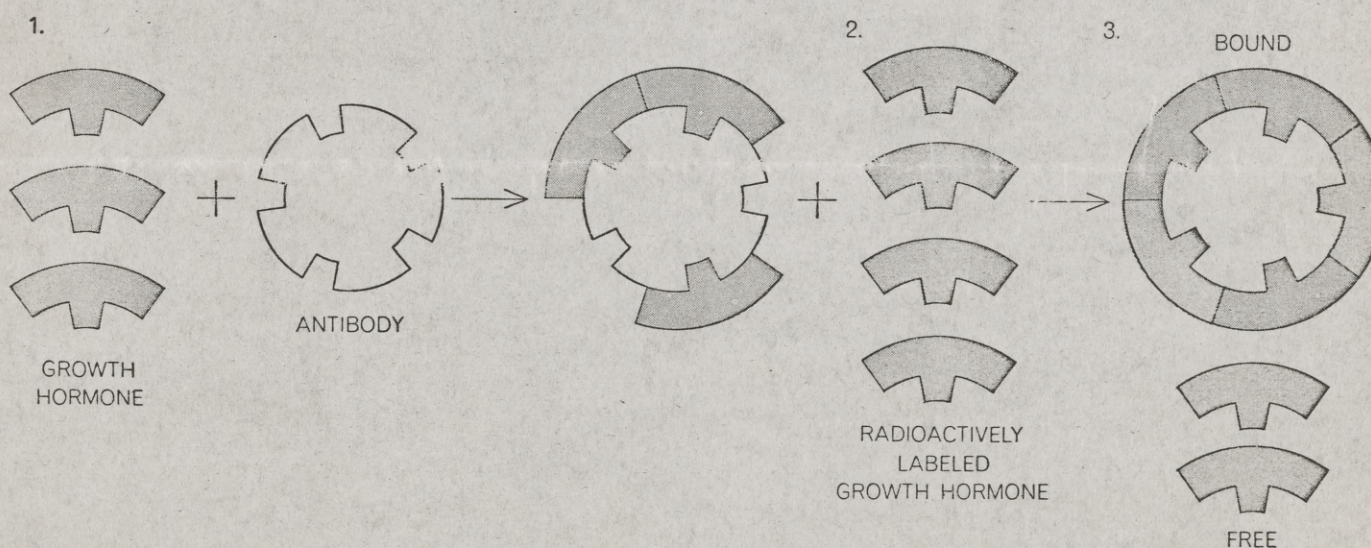
can be traced back to two sisters three generations earlier. Tom Thumb's parents were first cousins. Siblings are omitted except for those of Lavinia (whose sister also was a midget) and Tom Thumb.

nized two types of such dwarfs in which the birth weight is normal, one that displayed normal sexual development and one that did not; he called the conditions sexual and asexual ateliosis. It would appear that both Tom Thumb and his wife suffered from sexual ateliosis.

In Gilford's time it was recognized that the anterior (forward) part of the pituitary plays a role in growth, but it is

only now that we know it is involved in sexual ateliosis. It had been observed that individuals with an overactive pituitary grew too much and that others whose pituitary had been destroyed by a tumor during childhood grew too little; this suggested that underactivity of the gland might account for midgets. In the case of asexual ateliosis the suggestion was amply, although somewhat

indirectly, confirmed. People with the condition were found to be deficient in the hormones produced by the anterior pituitary in its role as conductor of the endocrine symphony: the gonadotropins, thyrotropin and adrenocorticotropin (ACTH), which respectively regulate the function of the gonads, the thyroid gland and the cortex (outer part) of the adrenal glands. Somewhat later it



GROWTH HORMONE RADIO-IMMUNOASSAY utilizes the reaction of a hormone and an antibody to it. If both are present in a blood sample, they will combine (1). When radioactively labeled growth hormone is added to the sample, it combines with antibody

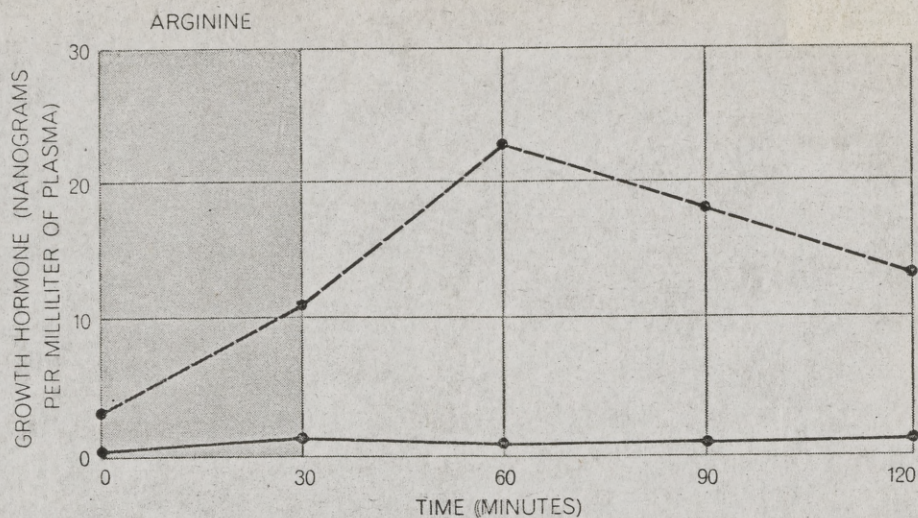
that has not already taken up growth hormone (2). Labeled hormone bound to antibody and unbound labeled hormone (3) are measured. The relative radioactivity of the two is a measure of the concentration of growth hormone in the blood sample under assay.

was discovered that such people were also lacking in another hormone of the anterior pituitary—the growth hormone. This was demonstrated by giving them the hormone; when they subsequently grew to some degree, it was indirect proof that the hormone had been absent. More recently, as we shall see, it has become possible to show the deficiency of the growth hormone directly.

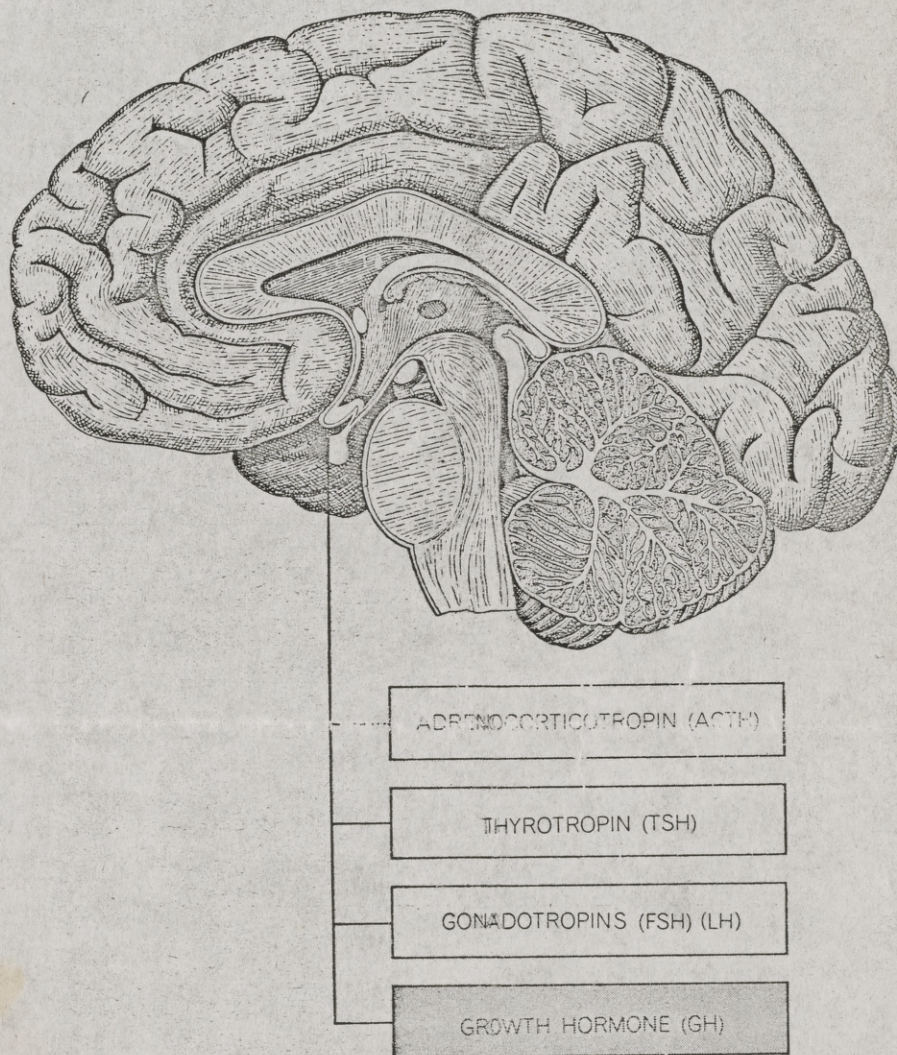
When it was found that asexual ateliotics lacked the gonadotropins, thyrotropin and ACTH, it was quite properly assumed that the pituitary was involved in their dwarfism. Indeed, asexual ateliosis came to be known as panhypopituitarism (lacking all the pituitary hormones). These three hormones were not deficient, however, in people with sexual ateliosis. For many years it was assumed that sexual ateliosis is not related to the pituitary; it was placed in a heterogeneous group of conditions called "primordial." The implication was that it is due to an inherited insensitivity to growth-promoting substances.

About 10 years ago the growth hormone was isolated and found to be a protein. Recently Choh Hao Li and his colleagues at the University of California at Berkeley have determined the complete sequence of amino acids in a molecule of human growth hormone; it consists of 188 amino acids in a single polypeptide chain. In 1960 Rosalyn S. Yalow and Solomon A. Berson of the Bronx Veterans Administration Hospital devised a remarkably sensitive means of assaying the amount of the hormone in the blood. Known as radio-immunoassay, it has become a prototype for the assay of other polypeptide hormones, including the growth hormone. Working in association with Thomas J. Merimee of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, we have used the method to study individuals with sexual ateliosis.

Radio-immunoassay is based on the reaction between a hormone and an antibody that combines with it. The antibody to growth hormone is prepared in rabbits or other animals by giving them repeated injections of the hormone. For the purposes of the assay one also needs a supply of purified growth hormone labeled with radioactive iodine (I-131). When both antibody and labeled hormone are added to a sample of blood taken from an individual, whatever growth hormone was originally present in the sample will compete with the labeled hormone to combine with the antibody. If the amount of labeled hormone is precisely known, that fraction of it which



GROWTH-HORMONE LACK in the blood of sexual ateliotic dwarfs (midgets such as Tom Thumb and Lavinia Bump) was demonstrated after infusion of arginine, which stimulates production of the hormone. A control group of normal-sized adults (*broken line*) responded to arginine infusion. The response of sexual ateliotics remained close to zero.



FOUR TYPES OF HORMONE made by the anterior (forward) part of the pituitary gland are adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH); thyrotropin, also called thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH); the gonadotropins, follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) and luteinizing hormone (LH), and growth hormone (GH). ACTH stimulates cortex of adrenal glands, TSH the thyroid and FSH and LH the gonads. GH stimulates growth of cells in various parts of body. Asexual ateliotics lack all these hormones; sexual ateliotics lack growth hormone only.

does not combine with antibody is a measure of the amount of hormone in the sample.

With this method we have found a marked deficiency of growth hormone in the blood of dwarfs with sexual ateliosis. Many of these individuals belong to families that include other sexual ateliotics; the pattern suggests the inheritance of a recessive gene. Their production of gonadotropins, thyrotropin and ACTH is normal. Our findings therefore indicate that people who suffer from sexual ateli-

osis have a "pinpointed" deficiency of the growth hormone.

A child of two such midgets inherits a pair of recessive genes for the defect and hence will be a midget also. We have studied several midget couples and some of their children. (All children of midget mothers must be delivered by Caesarean section.) At birth the children are of normal weight and size. Thus it appears that neither maternal growth hormone nor pituitary growth hormone produced by the fetus is essential to growth

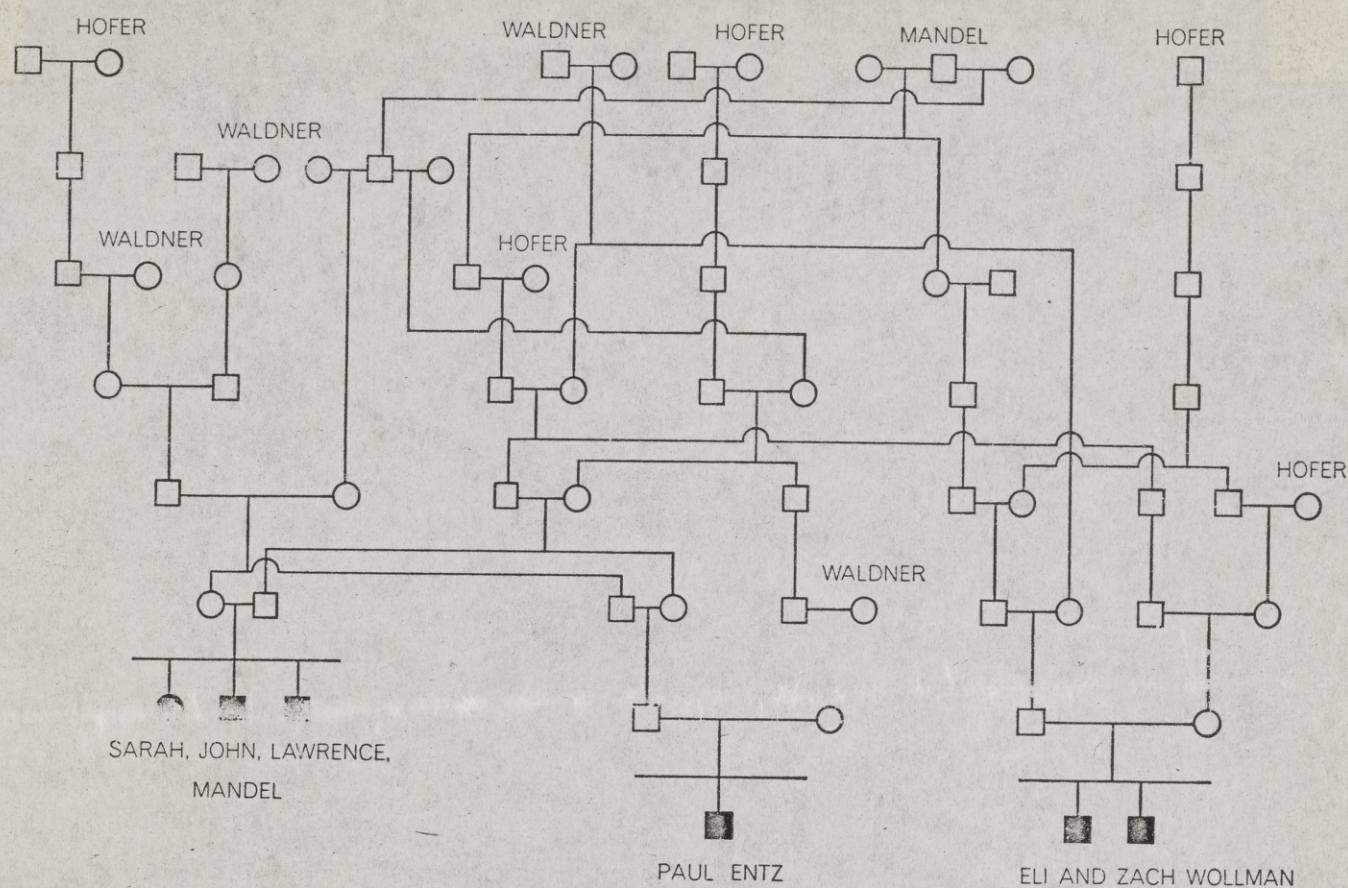
during gestation. A substance that has growth-hormone properties is known to be produced by the placenta; it is called placental lactogen, and its role in intra-uterine growth is being studied. The fact that the retardation of growth becomes apparent when ateliotic dwarfs are a few months old suggests that a switch to dependency on the growth hormone occurs during the period immediately following birth.

The midget mothers we studied produced milk normally. This is interesting



HUTTERITE MIDGETS with a brother and sister of normal stature are grouped (left to right) in the order of their ages, the oldest first. They are Sarah Mandel, 32; John Mandel, 26; George Mandel,

24; Elizabeth Mandel, 22, and Lawrence Mandel, 20. These midgets suffer from inherited asexual ateliosis, a rare form of the glandular condition. The Hutterites are a religious sect who live communally.



HUTTERITE MIDGETS' GENEALOGY shows a background of consanguineous marriages. Six children who are midgets (*black circle and squares*) are in three families of a Hutterite group. Family lines of the children can be traced back to individuals named

Hofer, Mandel and Waldner, so it is likely that the children's size is due to an inherited disorder. Cases of inherited asexual ateliosis have been observed in other inbred communities. Siblings of the midgets and individuals not in direct line of descent are omitted.

because lactation is controlled by the pituitary hormone prolactin, and it has proved impossible to achieve a definite chemical separation between this hormone and the growth hormone in man and monkeys. (The two hormones can be separated in other species.) The fact that lactation can occur in individuals with a pinpointed deficiency of growth hormone indicates that in man prolactin is probably a separate molecule. It is possible, however, that the lactation and growth factors are represented by different parts of the same molecule, and that the mutation that gives rise to sexual ateliosis is only in the growth-factor part.

Of the eight adult males whose deficiency in growth hormone we have documented four had shown a late spurt in growth accompanying a somewhat delayed puberty. Tom Thumb also grew several inches when he was in his late twenties. Although sexual ateliosis do not lack sex hormones, their voices are high-pitched. Their facial skin is characteristically soft and wrinkled, and they tend to look much alike. Barnum is quoted as saying that when Tom Thumb was not available for a show, he exhibited in-

stead the midget known as Commodore Nutt and no one detected the deception.

All the clinical similarities of Tom Thumb and Lavinia Bump to the midgets we have studied make it virtually certain that they (and the other two members of their wedding party as well) had a pinpointed deficiency of growth hormone with a recessive pattern of inheritance. This conclusion is supported by the fact that recently we had an opportunity to study a midget who is a distant relative of the Bump sisters and found the same deficiency of pituitary growth hormone associated with normal production of other hormones.

A recessively inherited defect of the pituitary resulting in dwarfism in mice was discovered in 1929 by George Snell of the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Me. Since that time other types of pituitary dwarfism have been detected in mice; sexual ateliosis in man may be similar to one of them. We do not know the biological mechanism through which the mutation is expressed. It may be a failure of the production of growth hormone or the production of an inactive

molecule. The defect also might consist of a failure related to the factor that is manufactured in that part of the base of the brain known as the hypothalamus and that controls the production and release of growth hormone from the pituitary gland.

Panhypopituitarism—Gilford's asexual ateliosis—is usually not genetic. A rare form of the condition that is inherited (as a simple recessive) has been identified, however, in certain inbred groups from the Island of Krk off the coast of Yugoslavia and from isolated valleys in the Swiss and Tyrolean Alps. With the help of John Hostetler, a sociologist at Temple University, we have had an opportunity to study similar cases in a group of Hutterites, an inbred religious sect whose people live communally in the prairie provinces of Canada and in some of the U.S. Plains states. In this group six people in three families suffer from panhypopituitarism. Presumably every one of the six normal-sized parents bears one mutant gene that, when it is paired with a similar gene, gives rise to the condition. The precise consanguineous relationships in the parents' ancestry cannot

be traced because the genealogical records are inadequate. Among the ancestors of each parent, however, there are individuals with the surnames Hofer, Mandel and Waldner. It is therefore probable that the parents have at least three ancestral couples in common.

The midgets in the Hutterite group we studied, being asexual ateliotics, are deficient in gonadotropins, thyrotropin and ACTH as well as growth hormone. They are not only sexually undeveloped but also show signs of thyroid dysfunction and are deficient in the hormones normally produced by the adrenal cortex. Another striking difference between these midgets and sexual ateliotics is that at the ends of their long bones are epiphyses: small floating structures that can be seen in an X-ray picture of a normal child but are absent in a normal adult because they have fused with the bones. These epiphyses are present even in the oldest midget we studied, who is 36.

What this means is that midgets suffering from panhypopituitarism are still capable of growth. If the epiphyses can be stimulated to grow and fuse with

bone as they do in a normal individual, the entire body will grow, at least to a certain extent. Panhypopituitary dwarfs respond to treatment with growth hormone even if it is given as late as middle age. Two of those in the Hutterite group, one of whom is four years old and the other 20, are under such treatment and are responding satisfactorily.

In normal growth the epiphyses fuse with the bones at puberty, and in sexual ateliosis they fuse soon after puberty. Since asexual ateliotics, whose epiphyses do not fuse at all, never reach puberty, it would appear that the sex hormones, androgen and estrogen, are much more important to epiphyseal fusion than the growth hormone is.

A happy feature of the discovery that sexual ateliotics have a hormonal deficiency rather than some kind of inherited insensitivity to the growth hormone is that the door is opened to treatment. At present there are practical difficulties in such treatment: it is necessary to use human growth hormone, which can be obtained only from the pituitary of someone who has just died. Recently ques-

tions have been raised about the legality of using pituitaries without the explicit permission of the nearest of kin. In most states, however, it is agreed that any non-profit use is adequately covered by the routine autopsy permission. If sufficient amounts of human growth hormone could be obtained and administered to a sexual ateliotic during childhood, the outward manifestations of the condition should be completely correctable. Preliminary results of such treatment indicate that when it is begun before the epiphyses fuse, growth can take place.

One might wonder whether pygmies also have a deficiency of growth hormone. In collaboration with Luca Cavalli-Sforza of the University of Pavia we have studied a group of pygmies in the Central Africa Republic. No deficiency of growth hormone was found in the 21 individuals whose blood was assayed. There are suggestions, however, that the growth hormone of pygmies may have reduced biological activity. We plan a further expedition to look into the matter by examining the pygmies' metabolism.



BONES OF A CHILD'S HAND appear in X-ray plates made when the normal-sized subject, a boy, was (left) four and (right) eight years old. At the finger joints and wrist small coin-shaped bones, the epiphyses, are visible. The gap between these and the adjacent long



bones gradually closes during childhood until, ordinarily at puberty, the bones fuse. Epiphyseal closure is moderately delayed in sexual ateliosis; it does not take place in asexual ateliosis. Midgets can grow if treated with growth hormone before their epiphyses close.

GENERAL TOM THUMB AND OTHER MIDGETS

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DWARFISM. H. Rischbieth and A. Barrington in *A Treasury of Human Inheritance*. Dulau and Co., Ltd., 1912.

GROWTH-HORMONE DEFICIENCY IN MAN: AN ISOLATED, RECESSIVELY INHERITED DEFECT. David L. Rimoin, Thomas J. Merimee and Victor A. McKusick in *Science*, Vol. 152, No. 3729, pages 1635-1637; June 17, 1966.

PLASMA GROWTH HORMONE AFTER ARGinine INFUSION: CLINICAL EXPERIENCES. Thomas J. Merimee, David Rabinowitz, Lamar Riggs, John A. Burgess, David L. Rimoin and Victor A. McKusick in *New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 276, No. 8, pages 434-439; February 23, 1967.

SEXUAL ATELiotic DWARFISM: A RECESSIVELY INHERITED ISOLATED DEFICIENCY OF GROWTH HORMONE. David L. Rimoin, Thomas J. Merimee and Victor A. McKusick in *Transactions of the Association of American Physicians*, Vol. 79, pages 297-310; 1966.



From left to right: Back Row: Herman Hoil, Miss Ann Asper, Dr. Bailey, Mrs. Joan Hoil, Cy Agoss, Miss Ronnie Starr, Harry Waxler, Blye De Lair, Dominic DiCelie, Richard Heyman, Robert Hill, Allan Pickard, Frank Lentini, Charles Secor, Walter Cryderman, Herman Lefkoff.

Second Row: Mrs. Tena Baehm, III, James Mast^{Tr}angelo, George Baehm, III, Peter Valuckas, Michael Valuckas, ^{Mrs.}Theresa Goldstein, Philip Hochstadt, ^{Miss}Frieda Betsky, Mrs. Ann DiCelie, Miss Sherry Hochstadt, Miss Frances McDuffee, Miss Louise Moore, Miss Dolores Dunbar, Miss Katherine Gordon, Miss Marney Greenstein, Miss Pat Beirness, Mrs. Barbara Hill (holding Robert Hill, Jr.)

Front Row sitting: Miss Helen Uffner, Stanley Wermes, Miss Janet Wyburn, Miss Joilene Wetherall, Mrs. Emma Lentini, Miss Shirley Lentini, Miss Pat Snowberger, Miss Linda Pomeroy, Scotty Bunce, Charles Pedersen.

District 2
Regional
October 1968
Syracuse, N.Y.

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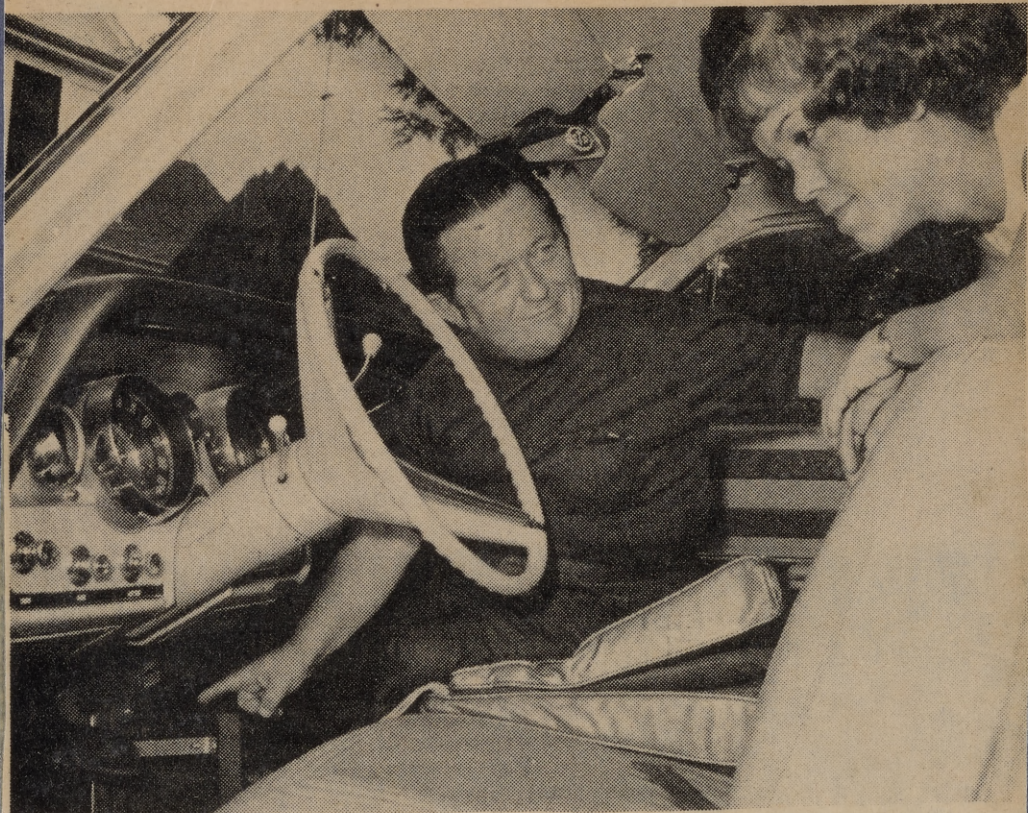


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SPECIALLY-EQUIPPED NEW CAR — Joe White of Dallas points out the extension pedals on his new car as Miss Nancy Ross Kelley looks over the seat.

Nancy Kelley Heads Largest 'Little People' Chapter in U.S.

Thirty-five Little People, who desire to help other Little People, gathered at the home of Miss Nancy Ross Kelley Saturday afternoon for a business session, and later picnicked at Grapevine Lake.

They are members of the Dal-Worth Chapter of "Little People of America, Inc.," the largest chapter in the United States, headed by Miss Kelley and having a total membership of 60 persons. Lee Kitchens of Richardson, who is a past national president and flies his own specially-equipped plane all over the U.S., was among those present.

These Little People resent being called midgets, as "most people associate midgets with freaks in sideshows and the circus," but refer to themselves as dwarfs or just small people.

They are capable of doing things normal-sized people do. "Our brains aren't affected or any less smart," they said, "we're just small."

The Dick McSpeddens of Dallas have a 10-year-old daughter, Mary Ellen, who is a dwarf and has been reared knowing the word and what it means. Although smaller than her sister and others of the younger set in her neighborhood, she is older and is the "boss." She skates, climbs trees, and swims. She is a Girl Scout, "interested in other people, unaware of herself but very aware of others," her mother said.

Mrs. McSpedden offers this advice to parents of dwarfs: Accept the child with open arms; don't keep quiet about the child's difference; don't hide him; use the sometimes sensitive word dwarf; don't make the child ashamed of what he is; don't be overly protective.

Jobs are no problem for Little People, as they are intelligent, and it was pointed out at their recent convention in Lubbock that there is a small person in every working field except in professional

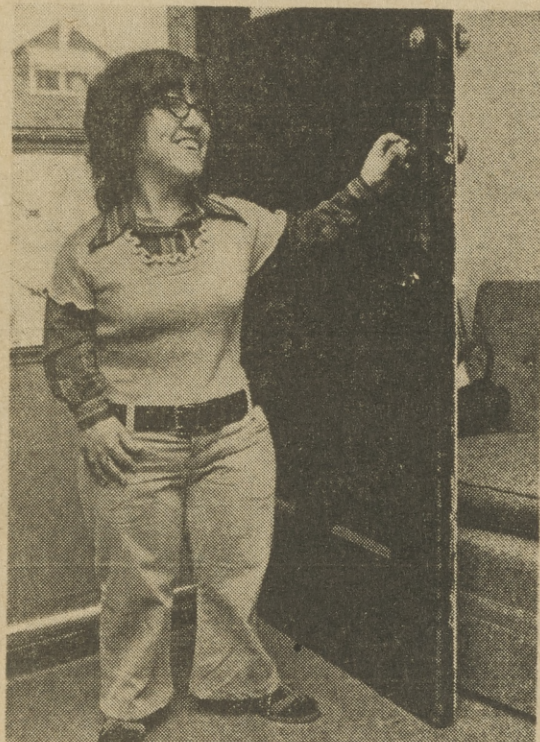
basketball. But it's the little everyday things that are trouble — like reaching a coin slot in a telephone booth, a water fountain, too-high shelves in stores, light switches, and elevator buttons. But they do accept these inconveniences and manage one way or another. Homes of Little People are filled with stools, and some families build homes scaled to their size.

The main thing these people stress is this: The attitude of the family of a dwarf child influences how he will accept his size and role in society. There is as much for the family to adjust to as there is for the child.

Nancy Ross said, "If anyone knows, or knows of a little person, please contact me."



OFFICERS — The Dallas-Fort Worth area chapter of Little People of America, Inc., is guided by (from left) Miss Nancy Ross Kelley, pres. (a secretary); Miss Nita Flores, vice pres. (in accounting); Miss Elinor Baker, sec. (speech therapist); Mrs. George Cromwell treas. (housewife); and Danny Blain, national teen chairman (college student). Mr. Cromwell, not shown, is District 8 Director which covers the Texas-Louisiana area.



KATHY KLINE REACHES FOR DOOR KNOB
Sabina Member Dresses Modishly

*'I don't think
we have a handi-
cap...we're
just built closer
to the ground.'*



PAT BILLIN OF YOUNGSTOWN TOSSES SALAD
Little People Member Is Barely 2 Feet Tall



GARY FRIEDKIN FROM YOUNGSTOWN AT THE WHEEL
Cars Are Equipped With Brake, Gas Pedal Extensions

JEAN KAPPELL'S DAYTON

Little People to Descend on Our Town

District 5, Little People of America, Inc., plans a September meeting in Dayton at Vito Zella's house. They will come from Tennessee and Michigan, Indiana and Virginia, and elsewhere in Ohio. Many of them driving cars with little extensions on the brake pedals.

Some will bring long-handled shelf-pickers, in case they want to do grocery-shopping. Some will bring wands with forefinger tips for dialing wall phones affixed higher than little people can reach.

THEY ARE COMING to Dayton because they hope other little people will hear about their organization and join their mission and their good times.

They also are coming because, however adjusted they are to the world of big people, however oblivious to the gawks of strangers, their spirits are freshened by being among their own kind.

"It is like looking in a mirror," says Vito, "talking things out with people who've been through what you have."

Frequent meetings reinforce the theme of

their coterie: "Think big. We're only little in size."

Vito works at Frigidaire as a janitor. "We met last year at Corpus Christi parish's home-grown musical comedy, "Chicago." He played bodyguard to Al Capone.

VITO PRODUCES a thick black scrapbook of all the clippings and newsletters about the Little People of America, their jobs, recreations, conventions, that have been published since he became a life member in 1965.

"Here's Billy Barty," says Vito, pointing to a picture of a handsome little man who can't be more than 50 inches tall. "Remember him in movies, and on TV with people like Spike Jones and Art Linkletter? He started our club in Reno with 20 little people in 1957. By 1960 there was a national convention — for adults, teenagers and Little Littles. And we've been growing ever since.

"Here's Max Bournstein, a cab driver in St. Louis. 'Maxie the Taxi' they call him." The picture shows a man four feet, three

inches high hasseling a suitcase out of a cab trunk.

THE STORY TELLS of the time a big truck driver yelled at Maxie, "Get out of that cab and I'll beat the devil out of you!" Maxie did...

"He's like me," says Vito. "As tall as anybody else—when he sits down."

Maxie has had other taxi-trade laughs over his dwarfism. As when he'd hop out of the car to open a back door and the passenger would say, "Now where did that driver go?"

Another of Vito's favorite clippings is about a four-foot, five-inch Fort Worth midget who earned his high school letter in tennis, managed three athletic teams, and has won trophies in bowling, baseball and golf.

"We have great ball games at conventions," says Vito, adding thoughtfully, "I don't think we've a handicap. We're just built closer to the ground."

"IT'S USEFUL in crowds and parades.

And if you get pushed, you haven't so far to fall."

Little people, concedes Vito, taller than most but still under four feet, eight inches, do have their technological problems. With stairs and light switches, countertops and high heels for ladies. They've a socialization problem, too, with big-world people who want to handle, hug and paw them because they're "cute."

"And though we don't go around sawing legs off things," some are of such compact stature they do need miniaturized furniture to live comfortable, harm-free lives.

The big problems, Vito says, are psychological. "So many, until they joined us, felt like they were the only little people there were.

"THERE ARE problem times, too—at the age for starting school. In the teens. Later, at an age for wanting a home, a job."

To all these growing-up stages the Little People of America address themselves with particular concern and devotion. They seek out big-people parents of Little Littles and

urge them to help their children identify with their own kind and develop a pride of size. They maintain a Little Littles adoption agency, and contact with a Johns Hopkins medical research team on dwarfism.

Knowing, too, that there's not equation between size and intelligence, skill or talent, they stress education and work for equal school and job opportunities. "No prejudice of race creed or color for us. We encounter prejudice, too."

LITTLE PEOPLE Vito knows are technicians, artists, clerks and civil servants. They're barbers, salesmen, mechanics, therapists, pilots, lawyers, fashion artists...

"And we grow up well-behaved," Vito says smiling, "because we have to. Big people keep watching us. All the time.

"So we have to make it on personality and humor. And we do."

The fun they have suggests something else about little people:

"Is there more laughter in your world?" "I think so," says Vito, "because we talk out our troubles more than big people do."



Vito



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